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CMU choir pays unexpected visit to Otsego High School

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Members of the Otsego High School choir recently played host to some special guests.

The Central Michigan University Chamber Singers choir visited OHS to perform and interact with the Otsego choir students.

According to OHS choir director Meredith Lincoln, the experience made quite the impression.

"My students were truly blown away by the singing that they heard that afternoon," she said. "You could see it in their faces after each song. They were blown away by how loud the 26 CMU students could sing, and that they were singing in eight different parts with only three people on a part.

"I think it showed my students that you can continue to sing and be a part of choir, even after high school. I truly believe they learned a lot by hearing them, and by the questions that (CMU director of choral activities) Dr. (Amon) Eady and students answered in between songs."

The CMU Chamber Singers performed 10 songs, including some from their fall concert, their Juletide (winter) concert and new music they began learning this semester.

A special duet featured Colin Wesseldyk, a 2023 OHS graduate who is currently pursuing a commercial music degree from CMU. Wesseldyk and Ryan Linton sang "Agony" from CMU's upcoming production of "Into the Woods."

Wesseldyk is playing Rapunzel's Prince, while Linton is playing Cinderella's Prince.

"Seeing Colin perform with Chamber Singers as a sophomore is such a fun experience for me," Lincoln said. "It makes me so proud to see him doing so well in his college studies and continuing his education in music.

"I can hear how much he has grown as a singer in just a year and a half, and it truly makes me prouder that I could ever put into words. I hope he enjoys singing that difficult repertoire as much as I enjoy hearing him sing it."

The afternoon also included the CMU students singing with the OHS students.

"It was really amazing to see OHS students and CMU students sharing music and singing together at the end," Lincoln said. "Watching my students be a part of something bigger was such an amazing experience for me. They were shocked by the abilities of the college students around them, and you could see them enjoying themselves."

The visit from the CMU Chamber Singers was an impromptu one.

The choir was originally scheduled to perform at Jenison High School and Rockford High School as part of a day-long trip to the Grand Rapids area. But both of those schools had snow days, leading Eady to reach out to Lincoln.

Lincoln graduated from CMU and performed in Chamber Singers during her time in Mt. Pleasant.

"Dr. Eady reached out to me about 6 a.m. and asked if I could figure out a way for them to come to Otsego instead," Lincoln said. "When I heard of this opportunity, I jumped on it and talked to administration as soon as I got to school.

Members of the Central Michigan University Chamber Singers perform for the Otsego High School choir students (above); members of the CMU choir perform with the OHS choir (at right). (Photos provided)

"It all worked out really nicely because there was already an assembly for wrestling going on that day, so choir students just came to the choir room instead of going to the wrestling meet."

Seeing Eady with his current students brought back plenty of memories for Lincoln related to her time at CMU.

"I am very proud to have gone to CMU and been part of Chamber Singers during my undergrad years," she said. "It was really fun to see Dr. Eady with his current students in my classroom singing such a hard repertoire. I was very envious of the CMU students, as I greatly miss singing in a choir with that level of musicality."

Lincoln hopes this year's visit from the CMU choir is the start of a new tradition for her program.

"I hope to continue to have CMU and other colleges come in and sing for and with OHS students," she said. "I truly believe it is a life-changing experience for these students to hear collegiate level choirs."

Ransom Library hosts annual escape room Feb. 21 to 24

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Belinda is a lovelorn librarian desperately searching for her soulmate.

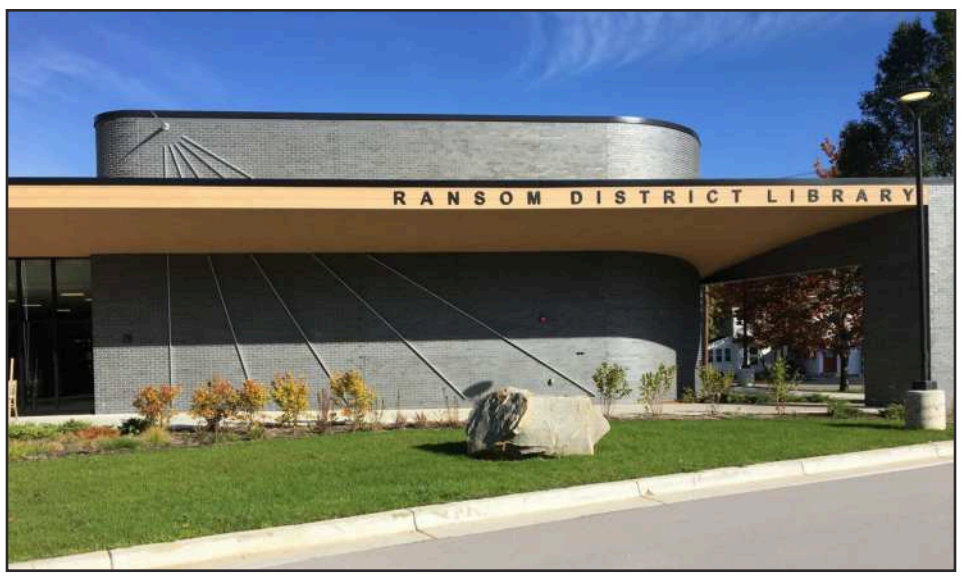
Are you willing to help her find her one true love out of 10 potential suitors?

If so, then all you need to do is sign up for one of the available slots for the upcoming escape room at Ransom District Library. The escape room begins Friday, Feb. 21, and runs through Monday, Feb. 24.

The concept for this year's escape room was the brainchild of Ransom head of patron services Analiese Mattson and Ransom assistant director/head of youth services Erin Marsh.

"The concept this year is a dating game as a nod to Valentine's Day," Mattson said. "We wanted it to feel different from the previous years and we were discussing possible love-themed ideas. Like many things at the library, an idea sparked, and Erin and I ran with it."

Groups of up to six people will have 30 minutes to sift through various puzzles and red herrings and hunt through clues to find which candidate is the perfect match for Belinda in this "dating-sim."



The escape room has been planned with a wide range of ages in mind.

"We encourage families and groups ranging from middle school to adult to join the fun," Mattson said. "This program really is for all ages."

Reservations are required to participate in the escape room, which will take place in the library's Burchfield Room.

To reserve a time slot, call the library at (269) 685-8024 or go to the events page on the library's website, www.ransomlibrary.org.

"We tend to fill up most of the slots every year," Mattson said. "People seem to really enjoy the challenge."

Ransom hosted its first escape room in 2018. The library has done so each year with the exception of 2020, when the COVID pandemic caused its cancellation.

"On the day of the event, the groups will enter into the Burchfield Room where a staff member will give them instructions and start the timer," Mattson said.

"Escape rooms have been a big hit for libraries over the past few years and we have had the same experience in Plainwell. People have always enjoyed the past escape rooms at Ransom and we hope that continues this year."

In addition to the escape room, Ransom offers various free programs for all age groups throughout the year. To learn more about those programs, visit ransomlibrary.org.

A group of friends was all smiles after completing the escape room at Ransom District Library in a previous year. This year's event begins Friday, Feb. 21. (Photo provided)

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Behind the Rise and Ride Ranch

By Cindy Sasser

I fell in love with the story behind the Rise and Ride Ranch in Allegan, created and operated by two sisters and their husbands. The love and appreciation they express for each other, their horses, and life at the ranch is awe-inspiring. I had so much fun corresponding with them and I would like to share their story in their own words.

The beginning:

Liz: It started with all of us having dreams of a life involving our animals. Just before COVID, my husband Carson and I started looking for a place for our three horses, Cody, Charlie and Story, where we could live our lives together with all of our animals and my sister whom I bring everywhere with me. After years of searching, we found this place and overnight we were dreaming of our life here! I'll admit, we were nervous about buying such a big place, but also very excited. I was trapped in a factory job and I wanted a change. Carson really supported me through getting out of that situation and making this ranch into a place where I could start my new journey. Before meeting Carson, I was in a very abusive relationship that almost ended my life. Towards the end, I took an MSU college course on horse care and with that knowledge, I secretly brought home Charlie (which is hilarious because how does one hide a large, flamboyant Clydesdale). The abusive relationship took everything from me, but Charlie was something I was able to have for myself and was my safe place. Charlie, like me, also had a broken spirit with trust issues. Together we worked through our traumas and gained more confidence in who we are. Charlie really ignited my passion for horse care specifically. Besides the trauma and trust issues, Charlie came with severe canker (like a cancer) in his back hoof. Carson and I spent 2 hours every night tending to it for more than a year. Mind you, Charlie wasn't the "sweet angel" he is today. It was a challenge that tried our patience and knowledge. It was then that I realized I really enjoyed the healing process and watching Charlie become the best horse version of himself. I started taking more courses, shadowing vets, watching experts in the field online, reading every article, you name it. This was something I really wanted to be good at!

Carolyn: Niall, my husband, was still in England, so I called him every day to fill him in on everything happening here while we waited for the travel ban to lift. Little did we know it would evolve into what it is today! Liz and Carson share a huge passion for animals and their care, while my heart lies in experience design and business. Together, we brainstormed ways to use our passions to make something sustainable. Back then, they only had three horses. Liz started offering lessons and boarding, and I dove into Facebook to promote and connect with other ranches. One day, we stumbled upon a rescue page called "Starry Skies Equine Rescue." A horse named "Gambit" caught our attention, especially with her heartbreaking backstory. Thanks to the money we made from lessons, we were able to bring her home and create a loving family for her. Now, everyone knows her as "Lakota," and she has truly become a favorite among our customers and especially Niall. She has opened up so much since she first came home! She began trusting people more and it was really cool watching people connect with her steady, yet shy, demeanor when they came to our ranch. After Lakota, a few more horses came home from that rescue and each of them brought their own interesting personalities and needs. They each clicked with different people in different ways. With more horses in our family, we could start doing horseback rides. But the business didn't come right away. We printed fliers, shared our ranch on groups, left business cards and brochures in stores, etc. It was definitely a slow start! To help boost things, we did an "Open Ranch" event to bring in a little more money for our horses and to get our name out to the locals! We brought in local vendors and did horse activities on site. It was a HIT; more than 500 people came! We worked hard, saved up money, and brought home more rescue horses in time.

We take care of them first:

Liz: When our horses first arrive, I monitor them for weeks, head to toe. I take in details like coat length/health, skin condition, hoof condition, confirmation, muscle development, x-rays, teeth, eating patterns, breathing patterns, even staring at their poop. Horses can't tell us what's going on and naturally, as flight animals/prey, they try their absolute best to hide anything and everything wrong with them. It's important we take that time to understand them and what they're unhappy with. An unhappy horse doesn't heal well and we want them to have both health and happiness. Another part of my monitoring when they first arrive is understanding their personalities and potential traumas. This involves hanging around with them, offering treats and "questions," establishing myself as their friend but also a leader they can trust. I feel around certain muscles for pain/trauma to see if I can get them on the massage and chiropractic appointment right away. This part can be dangerous as not all horses are open to trusting when they first arrive. They're hurting and we need to be patient. I'll sit for hours watching them in their pastures by themselves and then when they're acclimated with their herd. This helps me understand where they should go and who they can be pastured with. It also shows me how they feel and how confident they are in themselves. One of my recent horses, Peepers, has been a favorite of mine. She was so shy at first and was definitely head shy; we learned later that she must've gotten kicked in the face based on what our chiropractor felt. Over time, she became this energetic goofball that loves to show off in the arena. Once we know our horse inside and out, they begin our regular care plan. Each of our horses have their own special blend of food, medications, minerals and vitamins. Part of our care is scheduling monthly farrier, massage, and chiropractic appointments for our herd. These appointments serve two huge purposes. One, they make our horses happy! Two, they help us keep tabs on our horse's condition below the surface. Our massage therapist and chiropractor can tell us when certain muscles or bones are out of place. We use that knowledge to help us pinpoint subtle behavior patterns, changes in the way they carry themselves, changes to the type of riders we allow on them, their schedules, etc. Our farrier shows us in the hoof where a horse may be lacking in certain minerals, if their environment needs adjusting, or if they're wearing down their hooves differently based on how they're carrying themselves. We are constantly observing herd dynamics and making sure horses are partnered with others that play well together. Every horse is different and I swear it's like an elementary school yard some days. Our oldest horse, Story, is almost 30 years old, yet you'll see him running and kicking around like he's 6! He's with our other boys; they remind me of the Goonies when they're together. Hagrid, Duchess, and Rhaenyra know they're pretty horses and love to strut around in their own club and play chase as the "popular" kids on the playground.

Carolyn: A big part of healing is giving horses positive interaction with our customers! In "Heal Their Mind," on our website, we talk about how our customers become part of the healing process. Horses thrive with positive interactions. Many of the horses we have come from not-so-great interactions with humans. Hagrid is a great example of this as we learned from the rescue that he had some very harsh training. As a result, he struggles with humans, specifically approaching his left side. Over time, he has met so many people in our meet and greets and has opened up through positive humans, brushing, laughter, treats and hugs! On trail rides, people are typically filled with joy and excitement, the horses can sense this and it creates a positive time for them that they enjoy!

The work:

Liz: It's a LOT of work managing 20 horses on top of ranch upkeep, the horseback riding business, customer phone calls, social media, etc. I take care of feeding, vet and regular care appointments, pastures, daily checks, blanketing this time of year, customer inquiries, and everything to do with the horseback riding prep. Carson takes care of the ranch, repairs, hay, feed from the mill, expenses, feeding at night, predator checks, etc. He has a full-time job, so the ranch is his 5-9 after his 9-5. He's very kind and shares his heart with all the life here. He absolutely LOVES his ducks and taking care of them. Just like I am with horses in knowing every quirk, Carson knows every duck's quirk and their daily routines. I mean, he counts them daily to make sure everyone is there and will go around the whole property at night to make sure no one is missing. His strength helps keep things running smoothly and I can count on him to address the many upkeep needs around here. He's quite literally the back bone!

Carolyn: I take care of the digital piece of the ranch. I built and managed our website and booking system from scratch based on everything I've learned from our customers over the years. I'm proud of our booking system as I was able to design it to consider our horse's schedules. We divide up our riders by weights when booking. Behind the scenes, I have certain horses tied to those weights with priorities to make sure the right horse is assigned to people and people can't overbook horses that shouldn't carry certain weights. I also take all the pictures and videos you see online and manage our Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram accounts. Since I too work a full-time job, this is my 5-9 after my 9-5. Niall is our main guide for the ranch. He has the same passion for animals and loves taking time to understand and care for them. He also has a place in his heart for the human experience. Niall loves the world around him and loves hearing about the people on his rides. He tells me stories about the different things he learns and the connections he made while guiding! He also helps my sister with feeding and other ranch chores. The biggest role he plays is helping with the house. Given his English background, he values family time and making sure everyone eats healthy homecooked meals. He'll clean around the house while we work and go out of his way to make our favorite things when he's noticed we've had a rough week.

Some advice for horse owners:

Stay true to your values! If you're a ranch/horse owner reading this, please don't be afraid to set boundaries and do what you know is right for your horse! People can really make you feel bad sometimes; we get occasional flak over our rules about weight-to-height, mounting from both sides, walk only, etc. It's not about "ruining the fun" or "not being inclusive." Those words really hurt us defending the horses in this industry. A horse's ability should not be solely measured by their physical size and appearance. It's okay to say no on behalf of your horses!

A true spirit of TLC and commitment well expressed in these words, "Our goal when we adopt is to give that horse their FOREVER home and we mean it!" Read more about each horse and the rides offered at: www.riseanderideranch.com.

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Head Start impact strong in Allegan County

By Lisa Evans & Gari Voss

When President Donald Trump signed the executive order to freeze federal funding of grants and loans, non-profits and others were extremely confused and unsure of their future because much of their budgets rely on federal monies. With the blocking of the executive order by the courts, some of the projects took a deep breath and moved forward cautiously.

One of the programs that feared for a funding void was Head Start. After questioning more deeply, Executive Director of Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC) learned that the Head Start and preschool funds would not be frozen.

Director Evans reflected on some of the mis-information that has been shared, and how CAAC has worked to provide a well-managed program for children and families across the years. In "Reaffirming the Strength and Integrity of Head Start", Evans explains the work of Head Start and its importance to the children and families of Allegan County.

A recent article, Viewpoint: Programs at Head Start negligent, mismanaged, questioning the management, Source: The Wall Street Journal, overlooks the important distinction between interim-managed programs and longstanding providers like Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC). Interim management is a rare emergency measure triggered by serious issues like health and safety concerns or fiscal mismanagement. It aims to stabilize services and minimize disruptions for children and families. Once re-established, the grant is transitioned to a permanent community-based organization. This rare intervention does not reflect the success of stable, well-established programs like CAAC.

For over 60 years, CAAC has provided high-quality early education, health services, and family support to thousands of children throughout Allegan County in Southwest Michigan. This past year alone, CAAC helped 344 children prepare for preschool and kindergarten - healthier, better prepared, and more confident because of Head Start. Of the 344 children, 100% received essential medical screenings, immunizations, and developmental support, ensuring they were ready to learn. Families also benefited, with over 295 receiving critical assistance for housing, employment, and other basic needs.

In rural areas, Head Start is more than a preschool—it is a lifeline for families, a hub of resources, and a catalyst for success. CAAC operates with an average 14% administrative rate, meaning the vast majority of funding goes directly to serving children and families. Our commitment to quality and accountability is unwavering.

Over the past 60 years, Head Start has served more than 37 million children, many of whom have faced significant barriers to success. Decades of research and countless personal stories highlight how the program has empowered families, improved school readiness, and strengthened entire communities—often operating on limited resources.

Key impacts of Head Start include:

• Educational Gains: Longitudinal studies show that Head Start alumni are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and achieve higher earnings compared to peers who did not participate in the program.

• Health Outcomes: Head Start plays a crucial role in early screenings for vision, hearing, and developmental delays, identifying and addressing health concerns that, if left untreated, could hinder a child's growth, learning, and long-term success.

• Parental Engagement: The program fosters strong family involvement, encouraging parents to take an active role in their child's education. Through program governance, parents gain valuable experience in policymaking and budget management, skills that extend beyond the classroom and into their communities.

However, the full impact Head Start programs have in local communities cannot be measured. Helping our youngest community members be active and engaged learners is some of the most important work CAAC does. Setting students off on the right foot as they begin their educational journey is so important as it provides them with the tools to become successful adults and community members.

Since 1965, Head Start has been a pillar of early childhood education in the United States, providing comprehensive support to low-income children and families. More than just academic preparation, Head Start offers a holistic model of services unmatched by any other program. By addressing the many factors that influence a child's success, it lays a solid foundation for lifelong learning and development.

Head Start works. It changes lives. And in Allegan County, CAAC will continue delivering the highest standards of education and care to our youngest learners, ensuring a brighter future for them and our communities.

About- Lisa Evans is the Executive Director of CAAC, driving a team of nearly 130 dedicated employees and managing a dynamic $9.5 million budget to uplift rural Michigan communities. A fierce advocate for Allegan County, she is a bold leader in local government, education, and regional initiatives, relentlessly championing community development and transformative service that assist low-income and asset limited families.

TAG Team 2025 Grants awarded

On January 31, 2025, non-profits across Allegan County learned the decision of the 2025 TAG Grants when the Teens Aiding Growth (TAG) Team, the Youth Advisory Council of the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF), announced their 2025 awards.

The annual TAG Team grant application cycle invites all non-profit organizations and government entities that provide services, opportunities, or support for individuals 0-19 years old in Allegan County to apply. The TAG Team is proud to provide 15 organizations with funding this year.

These requests represent financial need across the county in the areas of access to medical care, basic needs, behavioral health, education, and enriching experience. The focus of the grants is to concentrate on children and teens.

Vicki Knuckles, ACCF Grants Program Officer, explained, "The TAG Members take this process very seriously. They review, consider, and discuss all aspects of each proposal submitted."

Applications for the 2025 TAG Grants were submitted by non-profits in November 2024. The TAG Team, comprised of high school students from schools across Allegan County, spent hours reviewing the applications to ensure that each matched the requirements and vision of the grant. Discussion then examined the needs that would be met should the non-profit program receive the funding.

Knuckles shared, "The review process is extensive, and members participate in thoughtful discussion before making their final recommendations."

TAG Chair, Audrey, from Saugatuck High School, shared, "The grant review process this year was an exciting one. We were given so many great applications from so many amazing organizations. And though all of us had to make some very hard decisions, I'm very proud of the selections our team made. I hope that with the grant money we gave to these organizations, we will see a lot of positive changes in Allegan County in the upcoming year."

Congratulations to the organizations and project receiving grants this year:

Michigan 4-H Foundation
Allegan County 4-H Support
Allegan County 3 – West Michigan
Pathways to Potential L.E. White Middle School
Allegan Online and Adult Education
Allegan Online & Adult Education Gym Equipment
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Baby Closet
Girls Scouts Heart of Michigan
Allegan County Girl Scouting
Grant Me Hope
Grant Me Hope Homes
Joy Closet
Getting Started
Kids Hope USA
Supporting and Expanding Kids Hope USA Mentoring Across Allegan County
ODC Network
Outdoor Discovery Center Visitor Center Updates & RED ALERT! Exhibit
Otsego Adventist Community Services
Socks, Underwear, Diapers, & Wipes for Kids Program
Red Horse Center for Collaborative Leadership
Thrive Youth
Ronald McDonald House Charities of West Michigan
Family Support Program
Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center
Safe Harbor Safe Kids Prevention Program
The Arc of Allegan County
In-school advocacy for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities
The Gate Youth Center
After School Programming

This year the TAG team is comprised of 19 teens representing 8 school districts across Allegan County. TAG Grants are funded through the ACCF's Youth Endowment Fund. This fund ensures that future generations of programs and services will be available for a healthy and supported childhood.

For more information about the Allegan County Community Foundation or the TAG team visit https://alleganfoundation.org/.

The mission of the Allegan County Community Foundation is to positively impact Allegan County through financial stewardship, education and community partnerships. Donations can be made to the TAG Grant or to the TAG Scholarships that will be given later this spring.

Wayland Union crowns Snowcoming Court

Wayland Union High School crowned their 2025 Snowcoming Duke and Dutchess this past week. Chosen were Lane Button and Harmony Laker!

At left, Snowcoming Duke Lane Button and Senior Representative Anna Edwards
At right, Snowcoming Dutchess Harmony Laker and Senior Representative Liam Barabas
Photos from Wayland Union Schools' Facebook page

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Community Events

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Be sure to get tickets for
Fri., Feb. 14, 2024, 6:30-9:30pm: Death of a Ganster
Robinson Manor 701 Marshall St. Allegan
Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 7pm: Tuck Everlasting
& Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 10am & 2pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 12-7pm: Modales Sweetheart Artisan Market
Modales 2128 62nd St. Fennville
Sun., Feb. 9, 2025, 8am-Noon: Pancake Breakfast
Fennville Area Fire Department 599 W Fennville St. Fennville
February: Peanut Butter Drive
Deliver jars of peanut butter or money to ACCF Office in the old City Hall on Locust Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Feb. 5, 2025, 5:30-7pm: Auditions for One Act Plays
Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan
Students in 2nd -12th grades are welcome to audition for the 11th Annual One Act Festival that spotlights young talent around Allegan.

Wed., Feb. 5, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6pm: Teen Pirate Cutlass. Students in grades 5-12 can enjoy a class w/ the Swordsmanship Museum & Academy. Registration required at 269 673-4625.
6pm: Pintesting – Shamrock Doormat. Register to make a trendy Shamrock Mat. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Kids 3-5 years and caregivers can drop in to enjoy books and activities.
3:30-4:30pm: Tween Will it Waffle? Students in grades 5-8 can enjoy making a variety of foods with nothing but a waffle iron. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025, 11:30am-1pm: Connected Chamber Women's Event
Railside Pavillion 2500 76th St. SW Byron Center
Connected Chamber Women members will network over lunch and hear Shariem Saterfield share "The Power of the Pearl", an insightful and humorous discussion about how to "keep your shine" when dealing with challenges. For more info, contact Taylor at director@alleganchamber.com

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Tween/Teen ED Print Necklace. Students 5-12 can drop in and paint a 3-D printed necklace. Registration required at 269 673-4625.
6pm: Teen Nerf Night. Grades 6-12 can duke it out in the stacks. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 6-9pm: TGIF Pick Your Project
Board & Brush 116 Locust Allegan
Get assistance in creating décor pieces for the home.

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 7pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Come and see the High School Theater Department bring the beloved book by Natalie Babbitt to the stage thanks to the adaptation by Mark Frattaroli. Tickets online or at the door $6. Wufacticket8.ludus.com

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 10am & 2pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Come and see the High School Theater Department bring the beloved book by Natalie Babbitt to the stage thanks to the adaptation by Mark Frattaroli. Tickets online or at the door $6. Wufacticket8.ludus.com

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 10am-noon: Darlene's Private Time Crunch
Board & Brush 116 Locust St. Allegan
Create a DIY wood sign while learning new skills.

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 10am-5pm: Downtown Plainwell Chocolate Stroll
Downtown Plainwell Main Streets
The City of Plainwell organized this chocolate themed event includes an Indoor Market along with chocolate treats with purchases, restaurant specials, and specialty drinks for the Social District.

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 11am: Impressionistic Acrylic Painting
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Join artist Mary Claire Johnson in creating an acrylic impressionistic painting. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025: Cottage Arts & Eats
Cottage Arts & Eats 245 Hubbard St. Allegan
11am: Mini Makers Kids Workshop. Kids get to use their imagination creating.
2pm: Learn the art of Zentangle.

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 12-7pm: Modales Sweetheart Artisan Market
Modales 2128 62nd St. Fennville
Grab your sweetheart, your friends or bring yourself & join us for the Sweetheart Artisan Market! Shop local artisan goods & enjoy great local wine while you're at it. More info Modales Facebook page.

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 6pm: Sweetheart Dinner
Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
Members ONLY can have dinner with their sweetheart while enjoying entertainment.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2025, 8am-Noon: Pancake Breakfast
Fennville Area Fire Department 599 W Fennville St. Fennville
Come for a wonderful breakfast that will be served by donation only.

Mon., Feb. 10, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Craft & Snack. Bring you own craft and craft, snack & chat.
3:30pm: Teen Cookies & Canvas w/ Kalamazoo Wine & Canvas: Frost Owls. Students 5-12 can join in guided painting class ro create owls. Registration required at 269 673-4625.
6pm: Pirates vs Viking. Ages 8 & Up can join historian Jerry Berg to learn about Pirates & Vikings. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Tues., Feb. 11, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 age children and caregivers can drop in to enjoy stories & activities.
6:30pm: Book Club Yupper Talk. Drop in and learn about the dialect as identity in Michigan's UP w. Professor Kathryn Remliner.

Wed., Feb. 12, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults. Drop in to have fun with friends from the ARC of Allegan County.
6pm: Bilingual Storytime. Ages 0-5 can drop in and enjoy stories & activities.

Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Kids 3-5 years and caregivers can drop in to enjoy books and activities.
3:30pm: Kinetic Coasters w/ the Air Zoo. Students grades 5-8 can learn how acceleration, Law of Conservation of Energy, and potential & kinetic energy affect design of popular thrill rides. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Feb. 14, 2025, 5:30pm: Valentine's Day DIY
Cottage Arts & Eats Hubbard St. Allegan
Put together a charcuterie board to take home, enjoy cocktails, chocolate covered strawberries and paint some keepsake coasters! Register at https://www.facebook.com/CottageArtsandEats.

Fri., Feb. 14, 2024, 6:30-9:30pm: Death of a Ganster
Robinson Manor 701 Marshall St. Allegan
Be prepared to enter the world of a 1920s Mafia marriage murder mystery on Valentine's Day at Dunn Speakeasy. There will be twists and turns as diners attempt to solve the mystery. For more information & admission: https://therobinsonmanor.com/ and click Events.

Sat., Feb. 15, 2025, 8pm: Valentine Dance
Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
All are invited to a Valentine dance featuring Strum, Dumb and Dumber. Music starts at 8PM. Bring your Sweet Valentine and have a great night.

Sun., Feb. 16, 2025, 2-4pm: Clarke, Meadow & Reed
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
A Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 Concert. The concert is free. Refreshment & alcoholic beverages will be available from the City of Allegan.

Mon., Feb. 17, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Messy Munchkins. Ages 0-6 can enjoy getting created with finger paints.
6-7:30pm: Craftastic – Macrame Keychains. Register to macrame a keychain. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Tues., Feb. 18, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 age children and caregivers can drop in to enjoy stories & activities.
3:30pm: Discover 4-H. Drop in to do activities with 4-H.

Wed., Feb. 19, 2025, 1pm: Play-Doh Play Lab
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 0-7 can drop in and create with Play-Doh.

Wed., Feb. 19, 2025, 5:30pm: Pub Quiz Trivia
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team and your library card and test your knowledge!

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - abuse prevention and healing
402 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborallegan.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

Armintrout's Nursery blazes path for Christmas trees and more

By Gari Voss

"Family" businesses can be the cornerstone of a municipality's economic health. In Allegan, MI, there are businesses that have been leaders in their industries over time. In the industry of nursery stock and Christmas trees, Armintrout's West Michigan Nursery, Inc. has led the way for what will soon be 100 years.

As their bio states, "Armintrout's West Michigan Farms Inc. is a three generation family owned company. Since the founding of our Nursery in 1935, it has been our goal to provide the highest quality Evergreen Conifers, Spruce, Pine and Fir to the market."

In 1935, Paul Armintrout decided to plant trees. This decision took Paul away from his father's grocery and meat market that was situated where the Hubbard Street parking lot currently resides. He continued to assist with butchering, but the open fields kept calling him.

As Paul moved deeper into the tree nursery business, he encouraged his father, Lemuel, to plant trees. It seemed natural since his dad had vacant land at the "Home Farm" on 113th Avenue. Therefore, the "first" generation really brought the "pre-first" generation into the tree business.

In the beginning, Paul focused on Christmas trees and nursery stock, and though his vision changed over time on the varieties of trees, it never left the evergreen varieties.

In a conversation, Dave, the "second" generation of Armintrouts, shared, "He [Paul] had many interests of which he sometimes described as 'impossible, impractical or too damn expensive', and this was just one of them. The first trees planted were Christmas trees. A nursery on the lakeshore gave him advice. He bought a blue spruce for $10 that was in the ground. All by himself, he dug it up and used a tripod to hoist it out of the ground and load it then reverse the process to plant it. He sold it for $20 dollars. At that time, he was working for his dad for $20 a week, so he thought the tree business paid a bit better."

Paul's father not only had Armintrout & Sons Grocery but ran a slaughterhouse at his farm. As he moved deeper into the tree business, Paul kept butchering and went to auctions to purchase cattle. As he got busier with the trees, he left the grocery.

About that time, Paul Schroeder, who was the state forester in the early 40s, talked Paul into moving into seedlings. In the early 50s, there was a boom in growing Christmas trees. Armintrout's had regular customers who over the years purchased millions of seedlings. Dave shared that seed-ling sales gave Paul a real boost in establishing his nursery business.

"Dad had been growing seedlings and began supplying the Christmas tree growers while still growing Christmas trees himself. My father was the first president of the Michigan Christmas Tree Growers Association," shared Dave. "Then I was the president and the first person to be the second generation president of the association. Zac (Dave's son) was the president, so he was the first third generation president."

Research shows that it is important not to pressure family members into taking over the family business. Dave verified that his dad did not push him into the business, but Dave loved being out of doors and working with the trees. Similarly, Dave did not pressure his family into taking over the Armintrout Nursery, but three of the boys, Zac (General Manager), Paul (Operations Manager), and Will (Team Lead Manager or Technical Manager) are currently in charge of the company.

Armintrout West Michigan Nursery is a 3rd generation company in Allegan, MI. Running a family business that passes across generations does not always lend itself to gathering the family. A won-derful moment: Hudson Armintrout, Zac Armintrout (3rd generation), Isla Armintrout, Christine (Appleton) Armintrout, Sam Armintrout, Paul Armintrout (3rd generation), Angela (Aksamit) Ar-mintrout, Jack Armintrout, David Armintrout (2nd generation), Nancy (Smith) Armintrout, Will Armintrout (3rd generation), McKayla (Burmeister) Armintrout, Tessa Armintrout, Ireland Ar-mintrout, Luke Jefferies.

Paul shared that he and his brothers went to college for different areas of business and even had experience in other industries, but they came back to the nursery business. "I really enjoy being outdoors. In addition, I like the 'illusion' of free will where I can make my own schedule and choices."

One thing that is known about a successful business is that it must adapt. "One thing about the Christmas tree business is that it cycles," explained Dave. "For a time, there is a boom when everyone is planting trees. The Extension Service would encourage everyone to plant trees, so they are way overplanted. Then it all crashes. This has happened about three times."

When first getting into the business, the Blue Spruce was very popular as seedlings, Christmas trees and landscaping stock, but there have been some problems with them over the last 20 years. That market has softened because of the diseases that infected some of the pines that were grown in the 70s and 80s.

"Really COVID brought changes. People were home more and began concentrating on improving their landscaping," recollected Paul. "We specialize in selling to landscapers. That includes homes, but even more so, businesses and solar farms. The trees are used for screens around the perimeter and can be interspersed in the farms."

Paul had purchased a 40-acre farm in the 1930s with the help of his dad. That is where Dave grew up. After that Paul rented some land while continuing to purchase and lease land to grow the business.

Though they no longer deal in seedlings, Armintrout's West Michigan Nursery includes over 1000 acres which allows them to offer a large supply and selection of wholesale B&B (balled and burlapped) and potted trees, as well as cut Christmas Trees, Boughs, Wreaths and Garland for the holidays.

The seeds often came from seed collectors in the Western mountains. Dave interjected, "Many of these are the same companies that were around when Dad began the business. The trees require weed, frost and disease control along with constant watering. It isn't as intense as a greenhouse business, but we are dealing with the natural elements."

The trees in which Armentrout's specialize are what the landscaping and nursery markets want. "They are in traditional landscaping. They tend to be more ornamental. Over the years, there have been changes in taste or there is a health issue with a certain variety."

Adapting to the market is the name of the game, but 3rd generation Paul shared that some of the biggest changes have come with innovation. "There is more mechanization and technology. This has been necessary because of the labor market dwindling. Plus, we are better stewards of the land to insure we get the best product without depleting the soil."

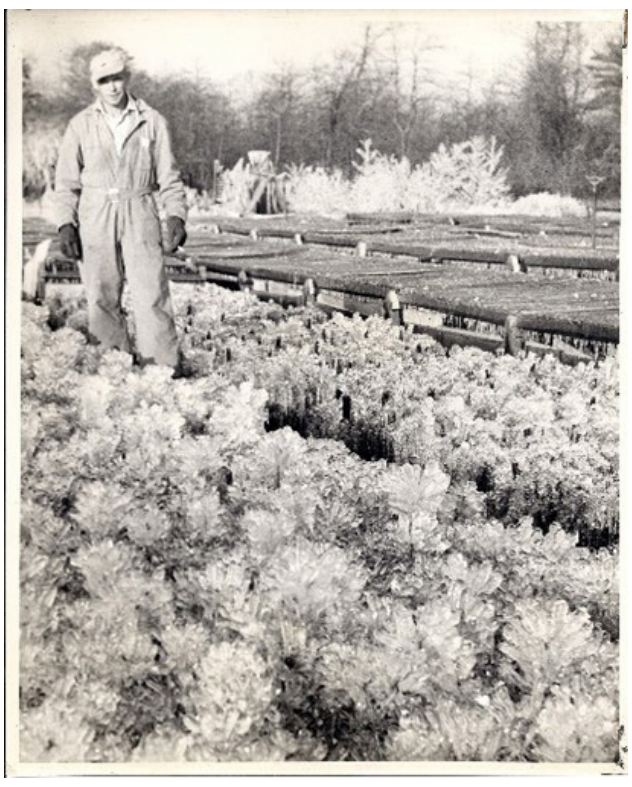
When queried as to why Armintrout's has been successful, Dave responded, "We do want to have the best trees, but more important, we want to serve our customers. We have had some of the same customers for 30 years and even longer. In addition, the industry is comprised of people who are on good terms. Everyone knows everyone. When there is a question or concern, we are free to ask. Even though we are in competition, we share information."

In the case of Armintrout's, they are in the same proximity in Allegan as Badger's and Peter-son's nurseries. But Dave explained that the landscape market is very widespread. Armintrout's Christmas trees may go all the way to Colorado, but Chicago has been a good market. In terms of the nursery stock, Dave has done business not only in Chicago, but also in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri where they have been good customers. Even Tennessee has been within their almost 500 mile radius of Allegan.

"When we were first doing Christmas trees, we would send loads to Florida and Texas and places in between," Dave shared. "We do not go that far now."

When questioned on what enticed him to stay in the nursery business, Dave explained, "I grew up in it. In college, I studied horticulture and got an MBA in marketing at Michigan State. I actually got a BA in psychology. This helped, but I enjoy the out of doors and you actually learn as you go along."

Currently, the boys (Armintrout's third generation) employ a core of about 20 workers then this increases to 40 or 50 during the 'season'. The spring and fall seasons are very busy with summer right behind. During spring and fall, there is most of the harvesting and selling, but there is also planting. Dave felt that both spring and fall were good for planting, especially when there is plenty of moisture.



Running a nursery of trees requires thinking faster than nature. Paul G. Armintrout is running frost protection on seedlings during an early Spring Frost. This was in the 60's when Paul, the founder of Armintrout Nursery, dealt heavily in seedling growth and distribution. Photo: Armintrout ar-chives

During the summer, Christmas trees are shaped for sale. Frasier fir has taken over the Christmas tree market. Different species have different characteristics that dictate when to prepare trees for market.

Dave feels that much of what he has learned about the stock depends on current demand. Much of "education" is learned by doing it then talking with others. In that way, the company branches off. Yearly conferences of the associations are held to make agreements on what should be done. Gatherings like the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association offered in winter and summer provide opportunities to share ideas. Then there are monthly magazines.

"Conferences are great times to visit with old friends or customers," Dave mused.

An important lesson that Dave learned from his father Paul was "no matter what you do, do something that you like". That may be the key to success for any business. This has certainly been the mantra for the Armintrout West Michigan Nursery business. Doing what you like and taking care of customers remain forefront in the minds of the Armintrout men who for more than three generations have honed the nursery business in Allegan, Michigan.

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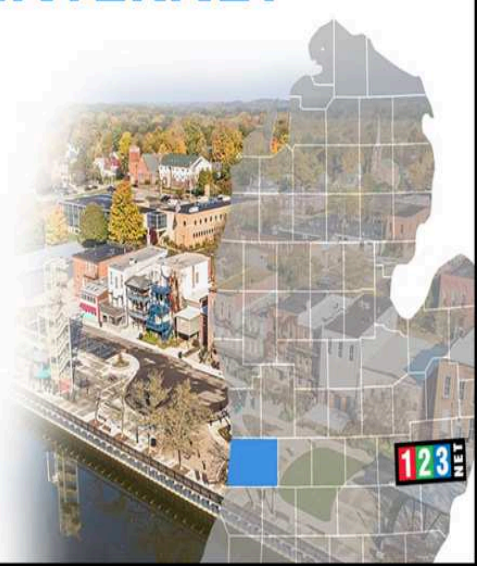

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Even county governments spend unwisely: Case study, Allegan County

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Our government, whether it is at the local, county, state or federal level, makes numerous decisions on how they spend taxpayers' money. Some we can agree with, some we can't. I would like to think with the advent of social media, more people are paying attention as to how their money is being spent.

Here's an example of one contract signed by Allegan County that came across my desk. I was shocked when I read it. To summarize Allegan County, approved by the Board of Commissioners has been subsidizing an internet media company located in Saginaw.

The company, Issue Media Group, in their accepted proposal, said, "Because of the decade-long decline of local newspapers across the country, many communities are left with significantly diminished news coverage, creating community news deserts in many rural communities."

Mind you this addressed to Allegan County where there are three vibrant weekly newspapers- the Allegan County News, the Saugatuck/Douglas Commercial Record and the Plainwell/Otsego Union Enterprise. Our office is smack dab across from the courthouse and we spend six figures each year on reporters to cover the news in the county. Allegan County is hardly a "news desert."

We are not subsidized by the County. I never thought of asking for taxpayers to pay our way. That money should go to essential services, not some company 150 miles away that if you look at their current articles, not one is about Allegan County. To say I'm upset, is an understatement.

One also has to wonder how you and I can even subscribe to the subsidized Issue Media Group to find the so-called articles. In Allegan County it is called The Lakeshore and actually covers several counties up and down the Lake Michigan Lakeshore. In mid-Michigan it is called The Epicenter. Unless you are familiar with the publications, you wouldn't know they exist. I venture to say at least 90 percent of the taxpayers that pay towards the pubs, are not aware of their existence.

On the other hand our newspapers are everywhere. Any store that has a large volume of customers has them. You can purchase a subscription and get them through mail. You can get a subscription online directly to your email.

Issue Media was also able to get money from the Allegan County Community Foundation, which granted is a private charity, but again, why would they subsidize a so-called competitor of their own county newspapers. The same could be asked of Mid-Michigan College in Clare County, that is also providing public money to support Issue Media. In the case of both entities we publish numerous press releases free of charge about their good deeds.

You gotta wonder what else our county governments are spending needless dollars on. We know spending is crazy at the federal and state levels. It is well documented. Thank God, for DOGE and their efforts to clean it up at the federal level. But one would expect county governments to be more diligent when it comes to spending our money.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Half a dozen decades ago a classmate said something I didn't like. It was insulting and demeaning, and left me with a choice. I could either turn his nose to twelve or tattle to the teacher. I chose the latter and promptly snitched on the kid. Right after school, he turned my nose to twelve as a reminder that snitches get stitches.

Over the years I have spent considerable time and effort trying to figure out why some people love making insulting remarks to others. For the most part, nearly all of them seem to have rather low self-esteem. They try to cover it up by insulting someone else. It is a smoke screen, much like the Wizard of Oz used to hide that he was a mere mortal working behind a curtain.

. There are those who want to get attention. Instead of saying something pleasant or positive, they say something nasty so that other people will notice them. A few people will go along with them, but the majority will not. They roll their eyes. Others think they are being clever, although they often fall short of their goal and show their obnoxious side. Nearly all of them, to a greater or lesser extent are bullies who are too frightened for an open discussion.

Once I understood that, instead of wanting to respond, I started to truly pity them. It is simply sad they choose to live this way when they could be so much happier. Given the chance, they drag others down with them. After a short time, I found myself much happier after cutting them out of my life. Getting rid of them also meant they were no longer taking free rent in my mind. We can refuse to walk on the proverbial eggshells around them, nor uncomfortably listening to their vitriol, even when it is cloaked in an attempt at humor.

A good example is the late British actress, Maggie Smith. She had some good writers who created the screen persona of a sharp-tongued character. If you ever watched Downton Abbey you soon realized that she easily insulted everyone around her, including her own family. Once, she went so far as to snap at her son, demanding to know why he had to be so nice. In real life, she was a very different person, just as the character Jack Benny as the perpetual cheapskate was very different from Jack Benny the generous man in real life.

After figuring that out, as I wrote, I cut them out of my life. Maybe that wasn't a nice thing to do, but I really did not need their nastiness taking up what little time I have left.

No doubt you remember just a few years ago when there was a move afoot to silence anyone who said anything with which another person or group disagreed. If their words or actions did not support another group, they were boycotted because they did not make the group members and their allies "feel safe." That is a very dangerous ideology because it means there can be no opposing voices. It is another form of coercion, bullying, and oppression. We saw it happen with some social movements, and of course, in politics. One of the most recent examples came with the Israeli war against Hamas in Gaza.

On some college campuses, anyone who dared to say anything positive about Israel, much less support them, was risking their reputation, livelihood, and life.

Politics has always been a firestorm of insults. Periodically, an elected or appointed official gets "mustard up their nose" as the French call it, and demands that opponents should not be allowed to say something irritating.

It often comes down to the limits of free speech. It apparently is perfectly all right for one person to bully and insult others, but then cry "foul" if someone returns the favor. It is a matter of 'I can say whatever I like and insult whomever I choose, but don't you dare try it."

In 2019, England's Member of Parliament Ann Widdecombe, was asked to speak at the Oxford University Union on the topic of free speech. She said:

"Nobody has the right to live their lives being protected from offense, or from insults, or hurt feelings. It is an occasional hazard of living in society. And if you really can't take it, become a hermit."

Recently, there has been considerable chatter about the sermon preached by Bishop Budde in the National Cathedral at the National Prayer Service. Like thousands of clergy before her, she spoke on the subject of showing mercy to those on the fringes of society. There are nearly a hundred references to mercy in the Old Testament, and many more in the Gospels and Epistles. This message of mercy has been a theme used by countless clergy in countless churches over the centuries.

Apparently, it was not well received by several people in the front rows. Instead of saying nothing, or at least saying nothing in public, the result was a series of insulting remarks. What made it worse was when one of his minions in the House of Representatives piled on by saying that the bishop's name should go on the deportation list. I do not think that idea has much traction to it, although it does raise a frightening specter about our rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

This might be the thin edge of the wedge that leads to censorship of what you and I can say without being reported or even punished, and even what can be printed in this and other newspapers. It could, as in the days of the Puritan Theocracy of early New England, lead to the censorship of the pulpit. That is something we should all find frightening.

One of the important roles of religion is speaking truth to power. Religious leaders have courageously done that for centuries. It has always been the responsibility of the clergy to point out to even powerful individuals that they are still accountable to God. Even when truth is spoken in gentleness and love it is always risky because those in power don't like to be challenged.

We all need to remain vigilant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (SEE MORE, PAGE B4)

Rev. Budde is hero for speaking out

Dear Editor,

What is a hero? The modern definition is: someone who is admired for their courage selfishness and noble quality, who is willing to take risk or make sacrifice in order to help others to achieve a noble good, in spite of what might happen to them.

The Rt. Revd. Mariann Edgar Budde is my hero. " Her courage in speaking out for the people who are scared, the gay, lesbians, transgender children who fear for their lives. Having compassion for those who do the jobs United States citizens do not want to do. These people may not be citizens but the vast majority are not criminals. God teaches us to be merciful." Hate will never make the United States great again.

Sincerely,
MartyRose McLeod

China Ascendancy poses major threat

Dear Editor:

We live in a global economy. Free trade with friendly nations, coupled with our vast natural resources and a culture that prizes strong individualism and entrepreneurship, has allowed our economy to be the largest, most stable, and robust in the world.

However, our economy and security are now under threat by the China Ascendancy; a group of hostile, non-democratic nations that consist of: Russia, China, North Korea, Iran and its proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah. The Ascendancy wishes to supplant the U.S. as the dominant economy in the world. They resent our economy, military, and the democratic rights and individual freedoms we have that stand in stark contrast with the oppression they impose on their own people and the nations around them.

The Ascendancy has been hard at work destabilizing the world, conquering trade routes, and controlling crucial resources. Witness Iran's attempt to crush Israel in the Middle East, that vital region that has more oil than all the Western hemisphere nations combined. And China, who uses what is called "gray zone" tactics to intimidate Taiwan and nearby nations to gain Taiwan's 60% share in the global semiconductor and 90% of the chip industry; products that we take for granted but whose components are ubiquitous in every single piece of technology we use.

And then there is Russia, who uses hybrid warfare to break the economic and cultural bonds between the U.S. and the European Union (a partnership that represents a massive 1/3 of all global trade and investment). This hybrid type of warfare falls just below the threshold of direct assault, but yet is designed to goad, frustrate, and weaken us, all the while maintaining the ability of Russia to deny any involvement. They are a nation that seeks to reconquer its old imperial territory and has been working towards that goal since 1991. Russia, like the other members of the Ascendancy, seek to control the natural resources of the world and shipping lanes to the detriment of the U.S. and other democratic nations.

George Canning, a British stateman who served at the beginning of the 19th century said, "We shall proceed upon the principle, that any nation of Europe that starts up with a determination to oppose… the common enemy of nations… becomes instantly our essential ally." And although he was referring to Napoleon's attempt to conquer Europe, his words are just as applicable today. It is in our best interests (America First) to support nations such as Ukraine, Taiwan, and Israel that are in conflict with the China Ascendancy. Gone are the days when the U.S. could get away with being a relatively weak and isolationist nation. We are a global power now. Our freedom, security, and prosperity rest upon a strong global economy and fair trade.

T. D. Moore

Nailed it!

Dear Editor:

USA problem rising, not from all the mollycoddling around the public fringes of American citizenry, the Ds, nor from long smoldering, recently burst into the flames, the Rs, of the Trumpster dumpster fire of this day. It has been a slow creeping satisfaction of complacency over the last 70 years convincing ourselves that our American republic, American exceptionalism, could, in a self-correcting fashion, take care of itself. It cannot.

We Sovereigns of the American public are at fault, verily have failed, as we have allowed Congress to disregard their responsibility toward our America. Yet they get elected and more so, re-elected.

Stated clearly in American Covenant, page 155 by Yuval Levin:

"Congress does not want to take up the most difficult public questions, because members feel safer letting those be decided by the other two branches while they act as pundits on the sidelines. Congress is weak, simply put, because its members want it to be weak. And that weakness invites aggression and hyperactivity by both presidents and courts. Many of the most contentious and complicated cases before the Supreme Court arise because Congress has legislated too vaguely, or has delegated its authority to the executive branch in constitutionally dubious ways. A lot of executive overreach is, ultimately, a function of legislative under-reach."

Smug and self-satisfied yet, we are now up to the brink in the brinkmanship game. So, we find we are here and now, very obvious and familiar although, sadly and very possibly to late to effect a fix.

Dang!

John 'Ric' Curtis

Trump's J6 pardons are outrageous

Letter to Editor (And all who claim to cherish Democracy),

Hundreds of police officers were injured at our nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021—attacked by a mob of thousands attempting to stop the peaceful transfer of power. Law enforcement officers suffered traumatic brain injuries, broken ribs, concussions, fractures, and more from being attacked with flag poles, metal stakes, fire extinguishers, and mace. People died that day, and others in the weeks that followed. The insurrection resulted in one of the worst days of injuries for law enforcement in the United States since the Sept.11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

With his first official action upon return to the White House, Trump pardoned all of the criminals convicted with crimes related to the insurrection. Among the over 1500 rioters pardoned, were more than 200 who had pleaded guilty to assaulting police. Leaders of the extremist Proud Boys and Oath Keepers groups who were serving up to 22--year sentences for their roles in the violent attempt to overturn the 2020 election were released with the stroke of Trump's pen.

It is not happenstance that Donald Trump announced that he was going to make these pardons on the day he declared his candidacy at Waco, Texas. By announcing his candidacy at the scene of the 1993 bloody and violent confrontation between members of an American extremist movement and law enforcement, in which many officers lost their lives, Trump ingratiated himself into the insurrectionist, anti-government movement. He knew what he was doing when he pardoned these individuals. He was sending his militia back out onto the streets of America to silence those that would oppose him.

And already that is happening. One pardoned rioter was re-arrested within days. And another was shot and killed by police during an altercation. The most recognizable rioter who wore horns and coyote fur during his rampage through the US Capitol was pardoned and immediately tweeted "NOW I AM GONNA BUY SOME MOTHA FU*KIN GUNS!!!".

Trump has done a lot of awful things in his first days of tenure, but his pardons are outrageously dangerous. They mock any party claims of law and order. Instead, they clearly indicate the support of chaos, crime, crassness, and anarchy. Even in the most hallowed halls of our Democracy.

With sincere concern,
Leonda Kessinger Shroyer

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Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

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The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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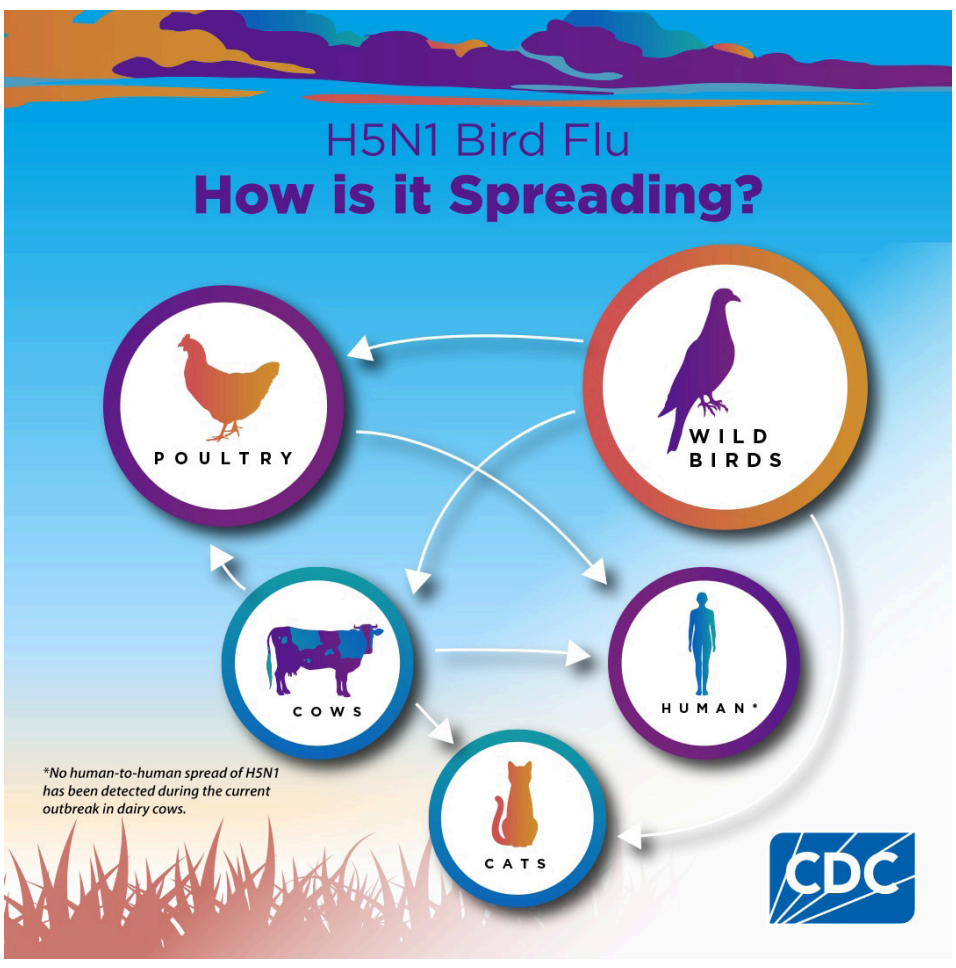
ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Bird flu is spreading in Michigan



By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN —The highly pathogenic avian or bird flu has shown signs of spreading in Michigan, according to two state departments, county spokesman Jim Story said. "Thus far in recent months the flu has been reported. in Ottawa, Jackson, Macomb, Eaton, Ionia and Wayne counties.

In a recent release, the Department of Natural Resources warned residents to be cautious around wild birds such as ducks, geese and turkeys after a gaggle of 10 dead geese were recently discovered. Across Lake Michigan, Illinois health officials reported hundreds of dead ducks along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The cause of both wild bird die-offs was the avian flu.

Allegan County's agriculture industry features major poultry growers, causing worry and increased attention to the march of the disease across the state. Backyard chicken growers are advised to keep their flocks quarantined. The flu thought to cause raspatory sickness among wildlife and domesticated animals.

Obituaries

Gordon Louis Noggles, 54

Gordon Louis Noggles, born April 8, 1950 in Covert, Michigan,

passed away of a heart condition on December 13, 2024 at the age of 74.

A long-time resident of Allegan, Gordon resided at the adult foster care home Sunset House, and lastly at a countryside home through Chrysalis Services. During his years in our community, he was employed for 15 years at Harding's Village Market, frequented local restaurants with friends, and was often

Gordon Louis Noggles

cheering at the Little League games.

Gordon was a faithful member of the Reformed Church for many years where he attended services, enjoyed holding babies, and frequently sang solos. His expressive singing was a blessing to fellow worshippers, as well as his kind and gentle spirit. Gordon also attended Presbyterian Church services with his friend Judy Wright.

Those who had been acquainted with Gordon will know that he is now laughing, rejoicing, and singing praises to his Lord and Savior, Jesus. Hallelujah!

James Rodney Keeler, 71

James Rodney Keeler, age 71, of Gobles, Passed away Wednesday, January 1st, 2025 after a long battle with COPD. James was born August 23, 1953 in Battle Creek, son of the late James Orlando and Reba Milsap Keeler. James honorably served his country as a member of the US Navy until his discharge in February 1978. After leaving the Navy he went to work at Roberts Consolidated in Kalamazoo where he met Cindy Moelaart. They would later marry in 1986, eventually move to Gobles, and James started working at Perrigo where he stayed until retiring in 2012; all the while working he helped Cindy raise her two daughters, Jeri and Wendy. James loved taking trips up north, spent riding four wheelers as well as just hanging out in his man cave with his good friend

James Rodney Keeler

Al. James, more than anything, cherished time spent with his family. From the many trips and vacations to taking the grandkids to the zoo, James loved his family.

Surviving is his wife Cindy; daughters, Jeri (Tracy) Titman and Wendy Smith; grandchildren, Heather Bruggeman, Christiana (Derick) Rohall, Dallas (Dakota) Rohall, Casey (Andrea) Smith, Bradley and Shane Smith; great grandchildren, Marqeece, Kingston, Miley, Henry, Heath and Brock; sisters, Debbie Crippen and Shari Eckhart, Callie (Jason) Crouch; brothers, Scott (Cindy) Keeler, and Charles (Robin) Beacham Jr.; also surviving are his longtime friends Al and Criss Maynard and Joe Love.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a step father, Charles Beacham Sr, brothers, James and Joseph Beacham, sister Nancy Keeler and a grandson, Nathan Smith.

Following his wishes cremation has taken place. A graveside service will take place at Ft. Custer National Cemetery in the spring. Arrangements entrusted to the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries

Adam Hughes, 35

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Adam Hughes, age 35, on January 27, 2025. Adam was a beloved spouse, a devoted parent, son, friend and all-around-one-of-a-kind human. His untimely departure leaves a void that will never be filled but a legacy that will never be forgotten. He passed away surrounded by loved ones and in the comfort of his own home. Adam lived a life filled with love, laughter, and unapologetic sarcasm that always kept those around him on his toes.

Adam was a proud and active member of the Boy Scouts community, always ready to lend a guiding hand and share the joy of the great outdoors and life skills. Adam really had a passion for Boy Scouts since he was a kid, and later on he worked hard to earn his Eagle Scout that he was very proud of. He had even volunteered to be a mentor for fellow scouts, working at Gerber Scout Reservation in Twin Lake, Michigan. When his kids were of age, he became a Den Leader to pass his legacy on to his kids and the kids of the community.

Adam grew up with his grandfather Robert's legacy of Hiscock's Towing in Allegan. This inspired him to tinker under the hood, bringing life back to cars needing repair, a skill he took immense pride in sharing with his kids, friends, and family. A master of wrenches and wit, Adam spent many years working as a diesel semi mechanic at JX Peterbilt in Grand Rapids, getting big rigs back on the road while sharing a few wisecracks along the way. His hands were just as skilled at building a better life for his family.

When not fixing engines, Adam embraced his love for creativity and strategy through hours of video games, Heroclix battles, classic cars, and shooting firearms. His infectious enthusiasm

Adam Hughes

and playful spirit created countless memories with his loved ones.

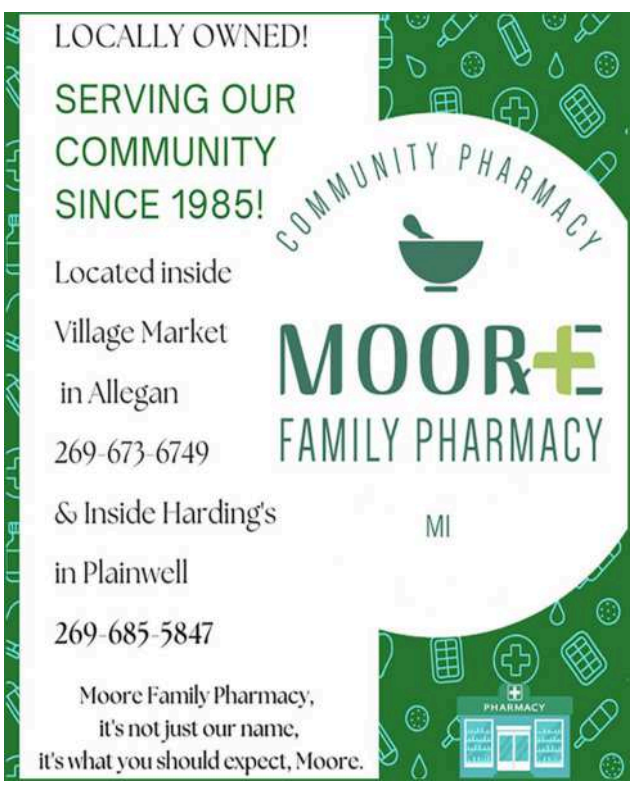
Above all, Adam was a dedicated spouse to LaVon and an extraordinary parent to Rylee and Wyatt. His unwavering love, endless patience, and boundless joy made him the cornerstone of his family. Whether it was a camping adventure, a late-night gaming session, or a simple moment together at home, Adam treasured every second with those he loved most. His passion for life, humor, and loyalty will be dearly missed by all who knew him. A sharp mind and even sharper humor made him everyone's favorite companion in both serious moments and casual fire nights with family and friends. On most of the fire nights we were surrounded by people he met through the Allegan High School Marching band, and coworkers.

Adam is survived by his loving wife LaVon Hughes, his cherished children Rylee and Wyatt Hughes, his parents Georgia Hiscock and Randy Hughes, sister Amy (Husband Brent) Otte and their children Carlyn, Cheyenne, Cambria Otte, and many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins. Adam is preceded in death by his grandparents Steven and Connie Hughes, and Robert and Arline Hiscock.

A celebration of Adam's life will be held on February 8th starting at 3pm at Christ Community Church 3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010. In true Adam's fashion, come as you are — cowboy boots, Scout gear, or game shirts welcome. Share your best memories and perhaps a sarcastic remark in his honor.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks for donations to Christ Community Church, Wings of Hope Hospice, and/or the Allegan Troop 91 Boy Scouts.

While our hearts ache at this loss, we are grateful for every laugh, lesson, and unforgettable moment shared with Adam. May his witty spirit and tireless love always be remembered.



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LIVING WITH GRIEF

BY RONNIE EWING/ AFTERCARE SPECIALIST

LIVING WITH GRIEF, is a monthly column provided by Gorden Funeral Residence. Each month LIVING WITH GRIEF will feature some helpful advice, as you the reader move forward in your own personal grieving process, or simply want to be educated to help those whom you may know have recently experienced a loss, or traumatic event.

Compassion Fatigue, ever heard of it? Commonly called, "Burn Out", and can be experienced by anybody that is in the line of work that involves caring for people, whether your involved as a:

- First Responder
- Last Responder
- Spiritual Care
- Caregiver
- Clinician
- Teacher, etc.

Compassion Fatigue, left ignored can take one down a very dark path. Most people turn to substance abuse to cope with some of the heaviness incurred especially if emotionally engaged. Professionals are warned, not to become personally involved, but if your human and have a heart, sometimes this can be unavoidable. This sort of fatigue often gets over looked, simply because those in these fields love doing what they do. These aren't regular lines of employment, rather callings if you will. Long short, like Grief this fatigue is trauma. And just like any process just being self aware does not cut it. Having an outlet, support group, self care plan, in place can make a world of a difference. Employers, and certain companies are becoming more aware of this, especially with mental health being on the rise. Staff Counselors, and Professionals in this field are slowly being hired and set into place to help you and I move forward as we continue, LIVING WITH GRIEF.

Gorden Funeral Residence

Lifelong Learners announces movie matinee Feb. 14

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Are you a senior citizen—or do you know a senior citizen—in the Plainwell/Otsego area who is looking for a fun way to spend Valentine's Day?

If so, the search is officially over.

The Lifelong Learners program—which is run through the Plainwell Community Schools Community Education Department—is hosting a free movie matinee.

At 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14, "Grumpy Old Men" will be shown at the PCS Administration building (600 School Dr.).

In addition to the movie, the event includes popcorn, water, pop and candy.

If you plan to attend, you're asked to call Anne McKinney at (269) 685-5823 ext. 1009 to resister.

Plainwell Community Education director Andrea Murphy is excited about the event.

"I have a great group of people that I work with, namely Anne McKinney and Elizabeth Gallagher, and they have a lot of great ideas for Lifelong Learners," Murphy said. "

"We were thinking of something to do in February and at first we thought of a craft. Then we were thinking of something that would get everyone involved and that's how the movie idea came up and we paired it with Valentine's Day."

"Grumpy Old Men" was one of three options for the movie to be shown as part of the event. The other two were "Sleepless in Seattle" and "An Affair to Remember."

A vote was taken at the Lifelong Learners bingo event in January, with "Grumpy Old Men" emerging as the winner.

"It's a great love story and a perfect choice," Murphy said of the movie, which stars Jack Lemon, Walter Matthau, Ann-Margret and Daryl Hannah, among others.

This is Murphy's first year as the district's Community Education director, meaning she is still getting acquainted with the ins and outs of organizing the Lifelong Learners events.

The Valentine's Day movie matinee will be her fourth event with the group.

"I think the previous events have been great," she said. "I'm just getting to know the participants and learning the best way they like to communicate—some like emails, some like phone calls—so getting acclimated to that.

"I'm also figuring out when is the best time to host activities for them and what their interests are. They have great ideas, and our goal is to try and get these ideas into action."

Murphy expressed her gratitude for Christian Neighbors and the Ransom District Library for partnering with the school district to host different Lifelong Learners events.

"We've also started a newsletter," Murphy said. "So anyone who comes to one of our events can sign up to receive it. We're really just looking to get more community members to come out and make new friends and do fun activities."

Murphy's goal is to host at least one event each month moving forward.

The event for March has already been announced: Meet the Meteorologist.

On Thursday, March 20, at 1:30 p.m., News 3 meteorologist Jeff Porter will give a presentation in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Month.

"Jeff will share his expert insights on weather forecasting and offer valuable tips on staying safe during Michigan's unpredictable spring storms," Murphy said.

As with the Valentine's Day movie matinee, those wishing to attend are asked to call McKinney to register.

For more information about the Lifelong Learners program, visit www.plainwellschools.org/page/lifelong-learners.

Plainwell Robotics Club team competes in Bellaire

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

A week after seeing a total of seven teams from the high school, middle school and elementary levels competing in tournaments, it was a bit of a slower week for the Plainwell Robotics Club on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Two team sponsored by PRC—one middle school and one elementary school—were in action at different locations.

Middle school team Error 404: Team Name Not Found made the three-hour trip north to Bellaire for a 27-team event. The Gooder Gadgets from Cooper Elementary School, meanwhile, stayed closer to home and participated in the 40-team tournament in Charlotte.

Team Error 404: Team Name Not Found, which consists of Ava Anderson, Anne Wilkinson, Mason Anderson and Lucas Pauly, finished the six qualifying matches in 15th place. The team was then invited to join the eighth-place alliance.

That alliance fell to the eventual tournament champion in a quarterfinal clash.

Marcus Anderson and TJ Wilkinson serve as coaches for Error 404: Team Name Not Found.

At the elementary event in Charlotte, the Gooder Gadgets finished 38th after the qualifying rounds.

Team members are Harper Bates, Kinzlee Williams and Zander Williams, with Kate Bates and Matt Bates serving as coaches.

Members of Error 404: Team Name Not Found are (from left) Ava Anderson, Anne Wilkinson, Mason Anderson and Lucas Pauly. (Photo provided)

Otsego third graders shine

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, third graders from Otsego Public Schools took center stage at the Otsego High School auditorium for the annual third-grade musical.

This year's musical was called "Snow Way Out." (Photos provided)

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NOTICE
TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PLAINWELL
BOARD OF REVIEW
MARCH 2025

Tuesday, March 04, 2025 - 9:30am — Organizational meeting (no hearings)
LOCATION: Plainwell City Hall Conference Room, 211 N. Main St., Plainwell, MI 49080

Monday, March 10, 2025 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm and 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 9:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 7:00pm
LOCATION: Plainwell Department of Public Safety, 119 Island Ave., Plainwell, MI 49080

The Board will meet on the dates and times stated above for the purpose of hearing appeals to the 2025 assessments.

Hearings are by appointment. To make an appointment, call (269) 685-6821 Monday through Friday from 8:00am - 4:00pm.

Beginning Ratios and factors are:

Commercial Ratio	42.07% Factor:	1.1887
Industrial Ratio	38.26% Factor:	1.3068
Residential Ratio	45.26% Factor:	1.1047

Michael Richmond, Assessor
City of Plainwell

NOTICE
OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
CITY OF PLAINWELL ORDINANCE NO. 399

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Ordinance No. 399 was adopted by the City Council of the City of Plainwell on January 27, 2025. A summary of the ordinance follows:

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION, A DELAWARE CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE RIGHT, POWER, AUTHORITY AND PERMISSION TO USE THE HIGHWAYS, STREETS, ALLEYS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF PLAINWELL, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF LAYING AND MAINTAINING GAS PIPES, MAINS, CONDUITS, VALVES, DRIPS AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES IN UNDER AND ALONG THE HIGHWAYS, STREETS, ALLEYS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, OF SAID CITY, AND THE RIGHT, POWER AND PERMISSION TO CONDUCT AND OPERATE A GENERAL NATURAL GAS BUSINESS AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN SAID CITY OF PLAINWELL, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS

The publication of this summary of the ordinance is intended to meet the requirements for publication as authorized under the provisions of 1909 PA 279, MCL 117.3(k), State of Michigan. No further publication of the ordinance is required or contemplated by the City. A true and complete copy of the ordinance can be inspected or obtained at the office of the City Clerk, 211 N. Main St, Plainwell, Michigan.

JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk
DATED: February 06, 2025

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest — Award-winning Newspaper — Best Sports Column
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025

Fennville prevails in Never Forgotten game over 'Blazers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—For three years—2020 through 2022—Ty Rock was part of the Never Forgotten Game between Fennville and Saugatuck as head coach of the Fennville boys basketball team.

Fennville's Gavin Kempker (left) drives to the basket in the Never Forgotten game with Saugatuck. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

On Saturday, Feb. 1, he was part of that game from the other side, as he's in his first season as head coach of the Saugatuck boys basketball team.

And while his Trailblazers fell by a score of 64-38, Rock knew this game was about much more than the final score.

"This is a special night each year," Rock said. "It's always an honor to be part of the Never Forgotten Game."

The game is played in honor of Wes Leonard, the multi-sport standout from Fennville who collapsed after hitting the winning shot to seal a perfect 20-0 regular season for the Blackhawks in 2011. Tragically, Leonard passed away from complications associated with an enlarged heart.

Since then, Leonard's family and friends have been on a mission to keep his legacy alive through the Wes Leonard Heart Team, which donates AEDs to schools and sports organizations throughout the state.

At this year's game, the Heart Team donated 16 AEDs, bringing the total number of AEDs donated to more than 625 in the past 14 years.

The players in this year's game don't have memories of watching Leonard in action, as they were no older than four when he passed away. So first-year Fennville coach Sam Cornett wanted to do something to let his players know just how special Leonard was and what he meant—and continues to mean—to the Fennville community.

That's why Cornett invited Ryan Klingler—Fennville's basketball coach during Leonard's time with the Blackhawks—to speak to the team prior to the game.

"That was both awesome and emotional," Cornett said. "He really got our guys fired up and ready to go. We were so blessed that he would come and talk to the guys."

While Klingler's words provided inspiration for the Blackhawks, it was Saugatuck that came out playing inspired basketball to start the game.

The Trailblazers scored the game's first seven points, prompting Cornett to call a timeout.

Fennville responded in a big way, ending the first quarter on a 14-2 run that included five points from Jesse Bernard.

The Blackhawks kept that momentum going in the second quarter, outscoring Saugatuck 17-7 to take a 31-16 lead.

Gavin Kempker led the charge for Fennville in the second stanza, scoring 12 of his game-best 20 points in the frame.

Bernard added 16 points for the game, while Zay Peoples contributed 14 points to give the Blackhawks a third double-digit scorer.

"It was a tough night for us," Rock said. "We had too many turnovers, and when you give an athletic team like Fennville extra possessions, it will not help."

Sammy Gamboa paced Saugatuck with 11 points, including one of his team's two 3-pointers. Cass Stanberry knocked down the other triple as part of his 9-point effort.

Caiden Pearson and Misael Gamboa chipped in with eight and six points, respectively, in the loss.

Martin, Allegan share SAC boys wrestling championship

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

COLOMA—A pair of Allegan County boys wrestling teams emerged as co-champions of the SAC.

At the SAC Championship Meet on Saturday, Feb. 1, Martin edged past Allegan by three points (215-212) to earn a share of the league title with the Tigers.

Allegan won the regular-season portion of SAC competition with a perfect 12-0 record in dual meets. The league title is the first for the Tigers since 2016 when they were a member of the Wolverine Conference.

For the Clippers, this marks the second straight season they've won the SAC Championship Meet to earn a share of the league title.

"The kids knew going into the conference tournament what they needed to do if they wanted to have a share of the conference title," Martin coach Logan Curry said. "We were in the same situation last year heading into the conference tournament.

"Our kids rose to the occasion last year and they did it again this year."

Martin and Allegan combined for seven of the 14 individual conference champions.

The Tigers led the way with four individual crowns: Jacob Collier at 113 pounds, Landon Coulson at 150 pounds, Ryan Sparks at 165 pounds and Rysten Williams at 175 pounds.

Logan Gilbert (120 pounds), Cole Reitz (132 pounds) and Haylen Buell (144 pounds) were the weight-class winners for Martin.

Also placing for the Clippers were: Jack Bagwell (second at 165); Malcolm Smith (second at 190); Seth Toris (third at 150); Sam Bleeker (third at 215); Cooper Dinse (third at 285); Jacinto Lopez (fourth at 106); Jayce Ritchie (fourth at 138); Gixxer Blair (fourth at 157); and Jakub Tomyslak (fourth at 175).

"Our coaching staff is proud of how we ended the conference season and we're excited about the opportunity to compete in the postseason," Curry said.

Martin was scheduled to host a Division 4 team district on Wednesday, Feb. 5, while Allegan will travel to South Haven for a Division 3 team district on Thursday, Feb. 6.

The Martin boys wrestling team won the SAC Championship Meet to earn a share of the overall league title. (Photo provided)

Individual districts are set for Saturday, Feb. 8. The Tigers will be in Dowagiac and the Clippers will be in Lawton.

Allegan earned a share of the overall SAC title, marking the Tigers first league crown in nine years. (Photo provided)

Hamilton claims league title

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON—When the Hamilton boys wrestling team won an OK Blue championship last year, it marked the first league title for the Hawkeyes in 11 years.

Hamilton didn't have to wait nearly that long for another conference crown.

Hosting the OK Black Conference Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, the Hawkeyes racked up 228.5 points to outdistance runner-up Holland by 45.5 points.

Zeeland East was third with 143 points, followed by Spring Lake (109.5), Zeeland West (89.5) and Unity Christian (17).

Hamilton was represented in 10 of the 14 weight-class finals. Eight of those Hawkeyes emerged with individual conference championships.

That included Jacob Chase, who prevailed at 175 pounds. Making the day even sweeter for Chase was that he collected the 150th win of his prep career.

Chase is just the eighth Hamilton wrestler to reach that milestone. Teammate Malachi Kapenga is one of the other seven, having secured his 150the victory earlier this season.

The wins by Chase kept him perfect on the season at 42-0.

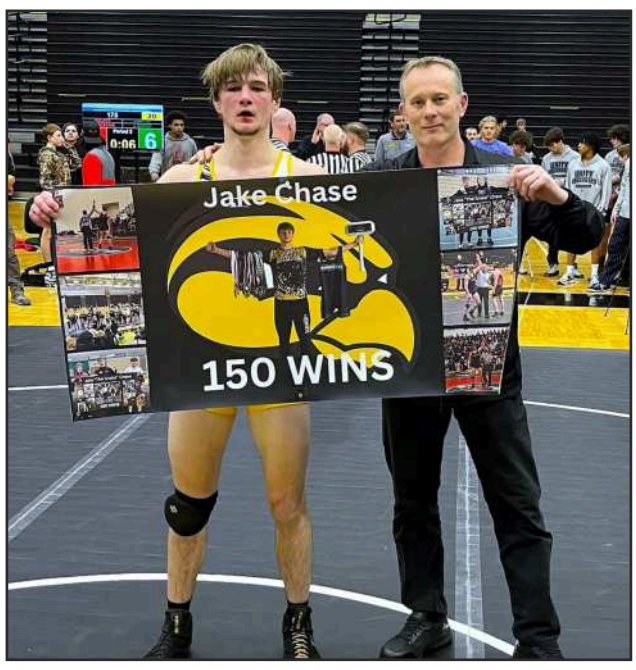
"Jacob's leadership and effort towards this team is unmatched," Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said.

Kapenga also earned a league title, doing so at 138 points.

The other six Hamilton wrestlers to capture conference crowns were Chase Morrison at 126; Bryce Morison at 144; Trace Lopez at 157; Tyler Black at 165; Isaac Nevins at 215 and Shane Dams at 285.

Broden VanWieren (113 pounds) and Gunnar Veenman (190 pounds) both finished runner-up, while Matthew Fales (120 pounds) was third.

Weston Geerlings (106) and Carmine Cardova (132) each placed fourth for Hamilton.



Jacob Chase secured his 150th career win during Hamilton's win at the OK Black Meet. (Photo provided)

Trojans boys swim gets past Otsego

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—When it came to winning events in the boys swim & dive meet between archrivals Plainwell and Otsego on Thursday, Jan. 30, the Bulldogs won the battle.

Otsego placed first in nine of 12 events, including two individual-event wins each from Liam Smith, Willsun Fuller and Blake Guerrant.

But it was the Trojans who won the overall war, using their depth to claim the 101-85 victory.

The teams entered the meet as the final two unbeaten squads in the Southwest and Central Michigan Swim Conference.

This marks the second straight season that Plainwell has prevailed in the dual meet against Otsego.

"The Otsego meet is one of our focus meets of the season," Plainwell coach Andrea Murphy said. "(Otsego coach) Darryl (Belton) is a great coach and he has a good team. It was a challenge as a coach to put a lineup together that would match up with his and try to score as many points as possible per event."

■ see Swim, Page B3

Saugatuck girls upend Fennville in Never Forgotten Game

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—For the record, the Saugatuck girls basketball team bested archrival Fennville 56-33 on Saturday, Feb. 1.

But for Trailblazers coach Kevin Tringali, the outcome of the game was secondary to the more important meaning of the night.

The game was part of the 14th Annual Never Forgotten Game in honor or Wes Leonard, the Fennville junior who tragically passed away in 2011 after hitting a game-winning shot to seal to 20-0 regular season for his team.

The event helps raise money for the Wes Leonard Heart Team, which donates AEDs to schools and sports organizations throughout the state.

Sixteen AEDs were donated during halftime of the boys game, bringing the total number to more than 625.

Tringali had the opportunity to coach Leonard in AAU basketball.

"As time goes on, less and less people are connected to the actual moment and I'm fortunate enough to be one of the guys who had a chance to coach Wes for a couple years," Tringali said. "I know his family, so it's great that I can share that with my (team) so they understand how special this is.

"A huge thank you to Fennville Schools and the Heart Team for choosing us to be in this game every year because they don't have to do that," Tringali said. "I'm just so proud to be a part of this. Wes was a special kid and what he's done since he's been gone has saved a lot of lives and this night just brings that to light."

Leonard's mom Jocelyn Leonard spoke to the Saugatuck players before the game.

"Mrs. Leonard was nice enough to speak to our team and she shared the connection between our two communities," Tringali said.

Junior Tali Laskowski scored 17 points for Saugatuck, putting her two points behind senior Kennedy Gustafson's team-best 19. Sophomore Mylah Simpson chipped in with 11 points.

Prior to this game, Laskowski—in her first year at Saugatuck after being home schooled—didn't know much about Leonard. That changed when she and her teammates heard from Jocelyn Leonard and watched a documentary about Leonard.

"We heard a lot about (Leonard's) mentality and how he was a really hard worker and a great team player," Laskowski said. "He was just a great kid all-around and to be part of this night was really special."

Saugatuck trailed 9-7 after one quarter and led 20-15 at halftime before using an 18-10 run in the third quarter to get some separation.

Lila Rosema paced Fennville with 12 points, while Cailey Mokma had eight.

Saugatuck's Nova DeGraaf (left) tries to keep the ball away from Fennville's Addyson Brown. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego swims (and dives) to win over host Sturgis

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

STURGIS—It's safe to say that the annual dual meet against Sturgis—especially when it's on the road—isn't the favorite for Otsego boys swim & dive coach Darryl Belton.

Blake Guerrant won the 100-yard backstroke for Otsego against Sturgis. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

"This is arguably this is our toughest meet of the year," said Belton, whose team made the long trek to Sturgis on Tuesday, Jan. 28. "What I mean by that is it's hard for the boys and myself to be at our best.

"It's a long drive, they have an old and tired facility and even though they are a (fellow Southwest and Central Swim Conference) school, this isn't exactly a rivalry."

Despite the negatives that come with making the trip to Sturgis, the Bulldogs still came away with an 87-73 victory.

Belton was pleased with the performances he received from his athletes.

"I was very happy—and somewhat surprised—by how well we swam, dove and competed," he said.

Among the Bulldogs who caught Belton's attention were freshman Liam Raseman and sophomore Blake Guerrant.

Raseman won the 200-yard freestyle at 2:04.75, while Guerrant won both the 200 IM (2:17.46) and the 100 backstroke (1:04.29).

"Liam had a nice meet, especially in the 200," Belton said. "Blake had a super good 100 backstroke."

Belton also praised the team's three divers—Caleb Wesseldyk, Caleb Payseno and Collin Crites—who went one, two, three in their event despite not incorporating some of their more difficult dives.

"All three of our divers put up good numbers doing basic dive sheets," Belton said.

Wesseldyk won diving with a score of 192.95, while Payseno checked in at 165.15 and Crites finished at 162.

Liam Smith, meanwhile, continued his dominant season by winning the 100 butterfly with a pool-record time of 51.36. He also won the 500 free at 4:50.37, which was .57 seconds off the pool record.

Other individual-event winners for Otsego were Willsun Fuller in the 50 free (25.29) and Carson Bydash in the 100 free (57.9).

The Bulldogs also won two of the three relays: the 200 medley team of Smith, Guerrant, Garrison Busscher and Fuller had a time of 1:54.11; and the 400 free team of Dillon Campbell, Guerrant, Smith and Raseman had a time of 3:58.15.

"The boys did a nice job," Belton said.

Allegan girls win two

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

A balanced scoring attack coupled with a tenacious defensive effort.

That was a winning recipe for the Allegan girls basketball team in its SAC showdown with visiting Watervliet on Friday, Jan. 31.

Six Tigers scored at least five—and not more than 11—points and Allegan didn't allow more than six points in any quarter in handing Watervliet the 49-17 defeat.

"This was a big home win for us," said Allegan coach Sharron Thompson, whose team improved to 6-4 with its second straight victory.

Allegan wasted no time in setting the tone for the game on both ends of the floor.

Five different Tigers scored in the stanza as Allegan took a 12-3 lead.

Ellie Bishop and Bailey Meade each hit a 3-pointer to lead the way, while Jayden VandenAkker, Ellie Ziemelis and Maddie Antkoviak each scored two points.

The rest of the game was simply more of the same, with Allegan taking leads of 26-7 at halftime and 37-13 after three quarters.

"We moved the ball well and knocked down shots while playing terrific defense, holding the Panthers to single digit scoring each quarter," Thompson said. "It was a pretty balanced scoring and overall a great team effort."

Antkoviak scored a team-high 11 points in the win, followed closely by Ziemelis with 10 and Meade with nine.

Shyonna Thompson added eight points, while VandenAkker and Bishop chipped in with six and five points, respectively.

Hosting Dowagiac in a non-league battle on Tuesday, Jan. 28, Allegan emerged with the 53-42 win.

"It was a back-and-forth battle," Sharron Thompson said.

That it was.

The Tigers jumped out to a 10-5 lead after one quarter, but trailed 23-20 at the intermission.

Allegan roared back in the third quarter, using a 20-10 scoring advantage to go up 40-33 entering the final frame.

"We had a slow start in the first half before turning up the defense and exploding in the second half with scoring to take the game over and secure the victory," Sharron Thompson said.

Meade the third-quarter surge, collecting nine of her game-best 16 points in the stanza. Antkoviak added five points on her way to 13 for the game.

Hayden Mokma finished with 12 points to give Allegan a third double-digit scorer. Ziemelis contributed seven points.

Plainwell upends South Haven in pool

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SOUTH HAVEN—After winter weather caused the postponement of its previous two meets, the Plainwell boys swim & dive team returned to action in a road showdown with South Haven in Tuesday, Jan. 28.

The extended layoff from competition didn't seem to have any negative effects, as the Trojans won 10 of the 12 events and posted the 98-77 win.

"This meet with South Haven went well," Plainwell coach Andrea Murphy said. "It was our first meet back after quite some time off from competitions and with all the snow days we've had.

"With that being said we had a few hiccups in some events. But we finished strong and got the win."

In a show its depth, six different athletes won individual events for Plainwell, with Sam Harper the lone Trojan to secure victories in multiple individual events.

Harper's wins came in the 200-yard IM at 2:08.06 and the 500 freestyle at 5:00.6.

Other individual-event winners for Plainwell were: Austin Susens in the 200 free (2:06.33); Aidan Ranger in diving (235.7); Grady Nugent in the 100 free (56.72); Ben Sparks in the 100 backstroke (1:03.36); and Davis Nooney in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.29).

Plainwell also took top honors in all three relays: Sparks, Nooney, Alex Steele and Nugent won the 200 medley (1:52.84); Nooney, Hiro Nguyen, Harper and Susens won the 200 free (1:41.94); and Harper, Nugent, Susens and Steele won the 400 free (3:42.73).

Plainwell's Austin Susens won the 200-yard freestyle in the meet with South Haven. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego girls pick up pair of victories on the hardwood

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

NILES—With a road win over Niles on Friday, Jan. 31, the Otsego girls basketball team would remain in second place in the Wolverine Conference standings behind Vicksburg.

A loss? Well, that would drop the Bulldogs into fourth place.

Fortunately for Otsego coach Tony Koshar and his team, it was the first of those scenarios that played out as the Bulldogs secured the 45-37 victory.

The win moved Otsego to 8-5 overall and 6-2 in league play. Vicksburg maintained its place atop the conference at 8-1, with Edwardsburg and Paw Paw tied for third place at 6-3.

"We had to overcome a little adversity tonight, but we got it done," Koshar said.

The adversity stemmed from the fact that both senior Tessa Prough and sophomore Brooke Smalldon found themselves in foul trouble early in the third quarter.

Prough eventually fouled out a couple of minutes into the fourth quarter. That helped Niles cut what had been a 35-27 Otsego lead at the end of three quarters to five points.

But the Bulldogs executed down the stretch and hit some free throws to put the game away.

Smalldon led the charge at the line, finishing 7-of-7 for the evening. That accounted for more than half of her team-topping 13 points.

Smalldon also had six rebounds.

Audrey Lingbeek joined Smalldon in double figures with 10 points to go with five rebounds and three steals.

Madden Fitzpatrick chipped in with four points and, even more importantly, a team-topping 12 rebounds.

"Those rebounds including a couple of huge offensive rebounds down the stretch to keep possessions alive," Koshar said.

Otsego led 26-12 at halftime.

"We got off to a solid start and really clamped down in the second quarter to build a nice lead," Koshar said.

The road win was the second of the week for the Bulldogs, who stepped outside of league play to defeat Gull Lake 43-28 on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Otsego held a 11-7 lead after one quarter, pushing that advantage to 29-14 at halftime and 37-18 entering the final frame.

"After a little bit of a slow start, we picked up the pace and started to pull away in the first half," Koshar said. "We slowed down the pace a little bit in the second half as we had some girls a little under the weather and a couple of injuries we were dealing with."

Prough had a huge game, collecting the double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds. She also had three blocks to match Mya Engbers for team-high honors in that category.

Smalldon joined Prough in double-digit points with 11.

"The girls are playing hard and really playing great defense," Koshar said.

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Plainwell finishes runner-up at league meet

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—The situation was simple for the Plainwell boys wrestling team entering the Wolverine Conference Championship on Saturday, Feb. 1:

If the Trojans wanted a shot at securing a share of the league title, they needed to finish at least one place ahead of Three Rivers in tournament.

And while Plainwell put up a good fight, Three Rivers ended up winning the conference meet with 257 points, while the Trojans finished runner-up with 226 points.

The Wildcats—who went 7-0 in league duals—also claimed the overall league title, while Plainwell—which finished second in league duals at 6-1—was second overall.

Otsego was third in the tournament with 104.5 points and finished fourth in the overall conference standings.

Plainwell wrestlers advanced to the finals in nine of the 14 weight classes, with three of those earning league titles.

Trojans who emerged as champs were Dylan Nieuwenhuis at 106 pounds, Austin Gyorkos at 138 pounds and Adin Young at 285 pounds.

Placing second for Plainwell were Tyler Cooper at 113, Grady Erlandson at 120, Benjamin Lynes at 132, Rickey Lynch at 157, Shayden Girton at 190 and Carter Ritchie at 215.

Edwin Johnson V (126 pounds), Thomas Almaguer (144 pounds), Marco Vega (150 pounds) and Aiden Beck (165 pounds) all place third for the Trojans.

Otsego, meanwhile, had a pair of wrestlers earn league titles on their home mats, with another placing second.

Lane Blanchard at 150 and Kole Engleright at 190 were the Bulldogs' champions. Zeke Andrina was second at 126.

Dylan Nieuwenhuis won at 106 pounds for Plainwell in the league meet. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego's Kole Engleright was the Wolverine Conference champ in the 190-pound weight class. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Swim ■ *from Page B1*

Sam Harper accounted for the two individual-event victories for the Trojans, winning the 200-yard freestyle (1:46.58) and the 500 free (4:49.71).

Harper was also part of Plainwell's winning 200 free relay team (1:38.31) along with Alex Steele, Nolan Lindsey and Davis Nooney.

The Trojans also had multiple second-and-third-place finishes, including from divers Aidan Ranger (second at 218.5) and Phillip Mathis (third at 171.6).

"We had a lot of our kids step up and do some big swims," Murphy said. "And our divers had one of the best meets of their season so far."

Belton, meanwhile, was pleased with the way his team competed.

"Obviously, this one is the big one," Belton said. "And while it's disappointing that they got us, I was happy with our effort.

"Plainwell is a little deeper than us and they deserved to win this one."

While the victory puts Plainwell in the driver's seat when it comes to the regular-season portion of the conference schedule, Belton is hopeful that his team can regroup for the SCC Championship.

The SCC meet is slated for Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1.

"We have some work to do in the next four weeks and I still like our chances at the league championship," he said. "Hopefully, this will give us a little fire and motivation moving forward and when we see them again, we will be better equipped and prepared."

Smith starred once again for Otsego, picking up wins in the 200 IM (1:55.14) and the 100 breaststroke (1:01.46). Fuller won the 100 butterfly (54.71) and the 100 backstroke (59.08), while Guerrant took the top spot in the 50 free (23.43) and the 100 free (52.04).

Caleb Wesseldyk secured the other individual-event win for Otsego, winning diving with 233.5 points.

The Bulldogs also won the 200 medley relay (1:47.95 by the team of Dillon Campbell, Smith, Fuller and Guerrant) and the 400 free relay (3:31.03 by the team of Guerrant, Liam Raseman, Fuller and Smith).

"We did have many outstanding swims," Belton said.

Liam Smith won the 200 IM and the 100 breaststroke for Otsego against Plainwell. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Davis Nooney competes for Plainwell in the Otsego meet. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin girls fall to K-Christian

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

KALAMAZOO—Jordyn Bonnema is the all-time leading scorer for the Kalamazoo Christian girls basketball program.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, Martin coaches, players and fans got an up-close view of just how good Bonnema is on the offensive side of the ball.

Bonnema scored at least seven points in each of the first three quarters and finished with 27 points as the Comets handed the Clippers the 50-14 loss.

The game started out as a defensive struggle, with the teams combining for a grand total of zero points in the first three-and-a-half minutes of the opening quarter.

That's when Bonnema and Kalamazoo Christian got rolling, outscoring Martin 11-2 the remainder of the first stanza to take a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

"We started out strong defensively," Martin coach Ben Schipper said. "Unfortunately, they also held us scoreless during that time and we weren't able to capitalize on our great defense and get out to an early lead which would have been huge for our confidence and energy."

Martin did a little better offensively in the second quarter, scoring six points, with two each going to Avery Jager, Marybeth Ritchie and Torryn Harris.

But the Comets scored 16 points during that span to take a 27-8 lead to halftime.

"K Christian always plays really solid defense against us and disrupts our offensive rhythm," Schipper said. "We just couldn't get into anything offensively, so any shot opportunity you see becomes desperate and then you're shooting hoping it goes in rather than just shooting with a clear mind."

Harris led the Clippers with four points.

"We liked Torryn's activity level offensively and defensively," Schipper said.

Avery Jager, Anna Jager and Ritchie added three points each, with Maggie Jager chipping in a free throw.

"We'll continue to work on getting to the rim," Schipper said. "We have to find a way to get there to put pressure on the defense and get to the free throw line. We can't keep ending games with such a free throw discrepancy."

Kalamazoo Christian got to the line 20 times compared to six trips to the line for Martin.

"It's been like that all season because we're not being the aggressor," Schipper said.

Allegan comes up short to Marshall

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARSHALL—The Allegan boys swim & dive team was in fourth place in the Southwest and Central Michigan Swim Conference when it traveled to Marshall on Tuesday, Jan. 28, to face the third-place Redhawks.

And given the proximity in the standings of the two teams, you might have expected this to be a tight, highly contested matchup.

And you'd be right, as the Tigers fell just short by a score of 95-90.

"It was a fiercely competitive meet," Allegan coach Carol Gephart said. "Our boys gave it their all, pushing Marshall to the limit, delivering standout performances and demonstrating incredible determination throughout the meet."

Allegan actually won seven of the 12 events, but that wasn't quite enough to upend Marshall.

Cadel Conrad and Oliver Burnett each collected two individual wins for the Tigers in addition to being on one winning relay each.

Conrad shined in the sprint events, taking the top spot in both the 50-yard freestyle (24.51) and the 100 free (53.93). Burnett, meanwhile, made his mark in the distance events, winning the 200 free (1:56.81) and the 500 free (5:35.44).

Conrad was also part of the 200 medley relay team that opened the meet by taking first place at 1:52.99. Sam Kelley, Ezra Smith and Josh Kelley joined Conrad on that relay team.

Burnett teamed with John DeLaet, Sam Kelley and Smith to win the 400 free relay at 3:50.05.

Allegan's other event victory came from Smith, who swam a 1:12.72 in the 100 breaststroke.

"The boys left it all in the pool tonight," Gephart said. "I couldn't be prouder of their determination and the heart they showed. This was an incredible meet.

"And while we didn't get the win, it showed how competitive and united this team is."

Cadel Conrad won the 50 and 100 free events for Allegan in the meet with Marshall. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER: MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

WHAT IS A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Water from your bathroom, kitchen and washing machine all go into a septic tank where solids settle out. The majority of the solids are digested by bacteria and the remaining fluid flows into a drainfield where it slowly filters through the soil. Organisms in the soil consume the remaining waste.

Graphic: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ENSURE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY

✔ HAVE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTED & PUMPED EVERY 3 TO 5 YEARS
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- Businesses are listed in the telephone directory or call the local County Health Department

✔ USE LESS WATER
- Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your hands and dishes, shaving, etc.
- Spread your laundry washing out over the week to avoid putting a lot of water into the drainfield

✔ AVOID USING CHEMICALS & ADDITIVES
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- Always check the product label to make sure it is safe to use in a septic system
- Alternative drain cleaner: ½ cup of baking soda, followed by ½ cup of vinegar, poured down the drain, let sit for a couple minutes and follow with boiling water

✔ DISPOSE ONLY CERTAIN ITEMS IN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM
- Only dispose toilet wastes and water used for bathing, cooking, laundry and dishwashing into the septic system
- Cloggers: Diapers, cat litter, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.
- Killers: Household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, etc.

✔ KEEP VEHICLES, LIVESTOCK & BUILDINGS OFF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM
- Keep vehicles away from the drainfield and septic tank and never build or pave over the drainfield
- Driving or building over the drainfield can impact the soil and break pipes. Soil compaction and paving prevents oxygen from getting into the soil. This oxygen is needed by bacteria to break down and treat sewage.

✔ PLANT ONLY GRASS OVER AND NEAR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM
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- Do not apply fertilizers or manure over the drainfield

✔ LOCATE YOUR SEPTIC TANK & DRAINFIELD AND KEEP A RECORD OF INSPECTION AND PUMPAGE

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Letters to the editor

We all need to acknowledge reality, not Trump's version

To the Editor,

I really didn't want to get into this. And I really didn't think I would need to, but here we are.....

After bragging about grabbing unwilling women by the p#*%y, and creeping around the dressing rooms of the Miss Universe and Miss Teen USA pageants (and apparently male golfers locker rooms), after dodging the draft and then insulting those who served, suggesting people ingest or inject bleach during a global pandemic, lied about a stolen election and incited an attack on our US Capital Building, lied about immigrants eating cat and dogs on live national television, two impeachments, and thirty something felony convictions; somehow, the majority of the voting public, frustrated with the far far left, a centuries old conflict between Israel and Palestine, a decades old problem at our southern border, and the pace of recovery from a mismanaged global pandemic in which the incredibly rich somehow got incredibly richer; refused to acknowledge what we all saw with our own eyes, and heard with our own ears, and re-elected Donald Trump as our president. We seem to believe every obvious lie, and disbelieve every obvious truth.

The editor of this paper rejoiced that we were going to "crown" a new president. I would not normally feel the need to mention it, but these are not normal times. Please remember that we inaugurate presidents. Kings are crowned.

A couple of years ago, I went on a WW2 "Band of Brothers" history tour. We followed the path of Easy Company from their training grounds in England, to jumping into France the night before D-day, to fighting and dying their way through Nazi occupied Europe, to enduring the bitter cold winter and unimaginable bombardment at the Battle of the Bulge, to liberating a satellite camp of the larger Dachau concentration camp, to the "Eagles Nest" (Hitler's lavish Mountaintop retreat). Visiting the multiple American soldier's cemeteries, and the seemingly endless rows of American servicemen's graves was very emotional. But it wasn't until we visited Dachau concentration camp, that I realized that in the span of about 12 years, Germany had gone from a democracy in 1933, to allied troops liberating concentration camps in 1945.

As I write this, it is January 27, 2025. National Holocaust Remembrance Day. One week ago, Elon Musk did a Sieg Heil salute at an inauguration event. Yes, we all saw what we thought we saw. No, he was not waving or dabbing or hailing a cab. That was a Nazi salute at an inauguration event for an American President!

President Trump says he is an open book. He tells us he is crazy rich and pays too much in taxes, yet he refuses to release his tax returns. He tells us he is the smartest person in the world, yet he sued to keep his grades from becoming public. He tells us the 2020 election was stolen, yet not a single person has made that claim after putting their hand on a bible and swearing to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth in a court of law. He tells us government is corrupt and has too many employees, yet he gave everyone in his family government jobs. He tells us he is going to get government out of our lives, unless you are a woman of course, then he is all up in your business. He tells us he wants government accountability, yet he fired 18 inspectors general. He tells us he supports police and is tough on crime, yet he pardoned 1500 convicted (many confessed and most on video) perpetrators of the January 6 riot/failed coup/storming of the capital who attacked police. He tells us he will end the war in Ukraine; true, surrendering to Putin will end it.

I believe that Donald Trump and his enablers are setting women, the middle class, and equality back generations. He has surrounded himself with self-serving billionaires, while doing everything he can to separate hard working people from their money. Yes, I'm looking at you; gold shoes, cowboy/astronaut/Rambo posters, NFT's, trading cards, Trump Bibles and digital Trump coins. Yes, the far left is too far left. Yes, we need to solve the issues on our southern border. Not because they are all horrible people, but because every country has the right to maintain secure borders, and have a functioning immigration system. However, we should not have to give up our democracy or our humanity to do it. We are a country of 330 million people, living on a planet with eight billion people on it. No matter how much we might like to, we cannot solve the problems of every living soul on this planet. Although, just because we can't do everything, doesn't mean we shouldn't do everything we can.

I do not know who all killed JFK, or if aliens or bigfoot exist. But I do know that I live on a round planet that is experiencing climate change, we sent men to the moon, January 6 was not a peaceful tour of the capital, science is real, the holocaust happened, the sky is blue and water is wet. I wonder at what point we will resume acknowledging reality. I hope it is not too late.

God Bless our American Democracy, and ALL of His people,

David Van Zoeren

Reader claims Trump, cabinet not fit for duty

Dear Editor:

America does not have the president it wants. It elected a liar whose supporters will believe no matter how idiotic his claims are. His cabinet picks stand alone among all presidents as the largest group of unqualified people ever nominated (at least since Betsy DeVos). A news show morning host for SecDef? An AG nominee who dropped a lawsuit over Trump U when he made a large contribution to her campaign? Kristi Noem who has absolutely no experience in this arena? Tulsi Gabbard whose close relationships with Russia doomed her political run in 2016? Oh yeah. We can't forget Dr. Oz. A TV quack who now is in charge of our health care system. A man who has touted numerous products that don't work but filled his wallet. They and the rest have one thing in common. They are large dollar contributors and they won't ever tell Trump no.

Bitch about the price of gasoline but there's that pesky "free market" thing. The government has little to no control over gas prices unless Trump intends to nationalize them. Instead, as he promised during the campaign, if oil company CEO's would give him $1 billion he'd slow down or stop EV production and sales in this country. And our interest rates are in line with most industrialized countries. And his plan to lower grocery prices? Since he has not elucidated I can only conclude that it's like his promises from the first admin. It's coming in 2 weeks (right). And you can get your panties in a bunch over Venezuela but 60% of our oil imports come from Canada. Yes, our neighbor to the north that Donald takes so much pleasure in denigrating. And throwing tariffs at them will certainly not help as they have already indicated they will respond in kind. And calling people who are in favor of combating climate change (yes, it's real) "elites" when most of his advisors are millionaires/billionaires is pretty condescending.

I know it's in vogue on the right but going back on your prior treaties makes us nothing but a pitiful group of LIARS. In 2011 when the USSR collapsed Ukraine had the 3rd, yes 3rd, largest nuclear arsenal in the world. In return for giving up those weapons the US and Great Britain extended security assurances to Ukraine. If you're so hot to abandon them after we promised aid maybe we give them back their nukes. Sound good?

Ah yes. Immigration. Certainly a problem but there was a bipartisan agreement on a new bill hailed by everyone (except Don) as the best in decades and supported by the US Border Patrol. It died in the House because Trump told Speaker Johnson to not bring it to the floor as it was one of his major campaign issues and if it went away he wouldn't have as much to bitch about. Also, for all those who proclaim that they are freeloaders or taking American jobs A) show me the vast groups of Americans who want to harvest crops or take low paying menial jobs (it doesn't exist) and B) undocumented immigrants paid over $97 BILLION in taxes (state and federal) in 2022. Again, growers are already sounding the alarm that they will not be able to bring in their crops this year.

And then lets talk about the one man you left out. Elon Musk. Musk is the man who bought a president for $280 million. He is a person who communicates frequently with Putin and his Nazi salute at the inauguration should be enough in itself to have him removed from the country.

Donald J. Trump is a low life adjudicated rapist, con man, grifter, and felon. (as is his immigrant wife) who's only ambition is to be praised by everyone and lining his and his oligarchs (yes, that's what the rich are now) pockets.

So when you want to praise the new administration try using facts.

Craig Ball

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF ALLEGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF A BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500 DELANO STREET, PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1996, AS AMENDED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a Public Hearing shall be held before the City Council of the City of Allegan on the 24th day of February 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City of Allegan located at 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010, on the adoption of a Brownfield Plan for the Redevelopment of The 500 Delano Street Property.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority shall exercise its powers pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The description of the proposed brownfield property is:
Land situated in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, described as follows:

Address	Parcel ID	Legal Description
500 Delano	51-135-001-01	LOTS 15 TO 28 AND LOTS 32TO 40 INC, GOODWIN ADDITION TO CITY OF ALLEGAN SEC 29. (14WT) Split on 06/22/2017 with 51-135-044-00, 51-135-045-00 into 51-135-045-01, 51-135-001-01;
N. Sherman Street	51-135-031-00	LOT 31 GOODWIN ADDITION TO CITY OF ALLEGAN SEC 29 T2N R13W (2014).

The proposed brownfield plan would allow the developer, and the BRA, to be reimbursed for eligible costs incurred to prepare the brownfield property for redevelopment. Eligible costs may include Phase I ESA, infrastructure Improvements, financing gap associated with the development of housing units priced for income qualified households, site preparation, interest, and the preparation and implementation of the plan. The brownfield plan must first be approved by the City of Allegan City Council.

This description of the property along with any maps and a description of the Brownfield Plan are available for public inspection at The City of Allegan City Clerk's Office.

All aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.

This form is based on the final ratios from the L-4018s filed with the STC

Allegan County 1/13/2025

Public Notice given under Public Act of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1971.

2025 Tentative Equalization Ratios and Multipliers by Classification

Government Unit	*Agricultural*		*Commercial*		*Industrial*		*Residential*		*Developmental*		*Personal*	
TOWNSHIPS	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier
Allegan	44.60	1.12108	48.84	1.02375	37.71	1.32591	46.33	1.07921	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Casco	41.52	1.20424	47.19	1.05955	52.33	0.95547	47.70	1.04822	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Cheshire	37.16	1.34553	50.42	0.99167	40.40	1.23762	44.07	1.13456	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Clyde	45.57	1.09721	49.62	1.00766	49.39	1.01235	40.94	1.22130	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Dorr	43.48	1.14995	48.55	1.02987	47.89	1.04406	45.19	1.10644	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Fillmore	43.66	1.14521	42.55	1.17509	42.47	1.17730	45.96	1.08790	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Ganges	42.34	1.18092	49.47	1.01071	46.68	1.07112	45.01	1.11086	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Gun Plain	41.56	1.20308	45.77	1.09242	44.30	1.12867	45.08	1.10914	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Heath	50.33	0.99344	49.34	1.01338	46.74	1.06975	46.44	1.07666	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Hopkins	40.53	1.23365	47.49	1.05285	47.40	1.05485	45.80	1.09170	48.20	1.03734	50.00	1.0000
Laketown	33.96	1.47232	49.51	1.00990	48.15	1.03842	45.51	1.09866	41.23	1.21271	50.00	1.0000
Lee	44.46	1.12461	52.94	0.94447	45.89	1.08956	46.57	1.07365	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Leighton	41.76	1.19732	45.38	1.10181	48.46	1.03178	46.77	1.06906	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Manlius	40.80	1.22549	47.11	1.06135	46.31	1.07968	45.87	1.09004	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Martin	44.55	1.12233	50.26	0.99483	44.56	1.12208	48.57	1.02944	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Monterey	42.07	1.18850	49.40	1.01215	40.93	1.22160	46.60	1.07296	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Otsego	40.91	1.22220	48.69	1.02690	41.03	1.21862	44.49	1.12385	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Overisel	42.49	1.17675	49.07	1.01895	48.46	1.03178	48.30	1.03520	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Salem	39.68	1.26008	45.60	1.09649	45.37	1.10205	46.01	1.08672	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Saugatuck	45.49	1.09914	43.50	1.14943	44.41	1.12587	46.14	1.08366	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Trowbridge	38.84	1.28733	49.65	1.00705	43.66	1.14521	42.82	1.16768	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Valley	44.41	1.12587	51.49	0.97106	49.16	1.01709	45.93	1.08861	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Watson	40.50	1.23457	37.98	1.31648	41.96	1.19161	48.46	1.03178	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Wayland	42.21	1.18455	44.79	1.11632	48.48	1.03135	47.96	1.04254	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITIES												
Allegan	NC	NC	46.94	1.06519	48.48	1.03135	45.81	1.09146	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Fennville	NC	NC	46.87	1.06678	45.81	1.09146	44.00	1.13636	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Holland	32.85	1.52207	43.03	1.16198	45.47	1.09963	45.17	1.10693	37.36	1.33833	50.00	1.0000
Otsego	NC	NC	48.47	1.03157	50.38	0.99246	43.64	1.14574	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Plainwell	45.46	1.09987	42.06	1.18878	38.26	1.30685	45.26	1.10473	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Wayland	NC	NC	50.11	0.99780	41.39	1.20802	44.77	1.11682	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Saugatuck	NC	NC	43.46	1.15048	NC	NC	42.30	1.18203	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
South Haven	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	44.41	1.12587	NC	NC	NC	NC
Douglas	NC	NC	43.92	1.13843	47.59	1.05064	46.28	1.08038	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000

NC = None Classified

These tentative ratios and multipliers may be modified as a result of changes in assessed valuations by the Assessor and Board of Review.

Faces in the Crowd

G C Stoppel

"You should walk at least 10,000 steps a day," is a message that has been repeated for over half a century. That number of steps means that we have walked, roughly, about 4 and a half miles. This week's question: "Do you get in your 10,000? Or how many miles do you think you walk?"

-Couple at a gas station on M-89: Woman: "Yeah. My partner and I run marathons and are on the track team at Northwestern, so yeah, easy-peasy."

-Man near the hardware store in Fennville: "I used to get close, and then I found out that the Japanese company that made the counters [pedometers] pulled that number out of the air. I threw my pedometer away after that."

-Couple near the Blue Goose: Both laughed. Woman: "Nope. I used to walk a lot more when I was running after the kids and the grandchildren, but not now. Same goes for him."

-Woman near the Fennville drug store: "Probably. I work on the floor at [big box store] and yeah, I probably do." Big smile. "I should tell my husband I want a pedometer for my birthday Meh, he'd tell me I could get it on the employee discount so just go buy one."

-Woman with her: "My daughter's boyfriend gave her one for Valentine's Day and she broke up with him right then and there." When asked if she kept the pedometer, the woman said, "She was going to give it back, but then kept it and used it. She lost a ton of weight and found a better fellow."

-Man near Minnie's: "I sure wish I needed one." Points to his right knee. "I need to get it replaced. If It didn't hurt so much…. But maybe after I finish therapy. We'll see."

-Man near the Allegan Post Office: "I heard someone say that those pedometer things send your information to the cloud, and then the Chinese keep track of it. I don't need them knowing anything about me."

-Man, same location: "Ten thousand steps is about four and a half miles, you say? I probably do that, but I don't have something to keep track for me."

-Younger woman: "Definitely. Walking is the best exercise there is! I'm obsessive about getting in my steps, even during the snow we just had."

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Public Notices

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM a.m./p.m. on February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Timothy Scott Durand and Brenda S. Durand of Allegan County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 28th day of June, 2004, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Allegan and State of Michigan, on the 20th day of July, 2004, Liber 2707, Page 258, of the Allegan County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $40,190.31 plus accrued interest at 9.00000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Lee, in the County of Allegan and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan North 208.7 feet of West 208.7 feet of North 1/2 Northeast 1/4 Section 22, Town 1 North, Range 15 West. Commonly known as: 563 53rd Street, Pullman, MI 49450 Tax ID: 12-022-001-00 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: January 16, 2025 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 24-001282-1

(01-16)(02-06)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Allegan County, Michigan, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage ("Mortgage") and Note ("Note") made by David W. Angeles, an unmarried man, and Shirley R. Haynes, an unmarried woman, whose address is 118 South Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408 ("Mortgagor"), in favor of AAC Credit Union, which address is 904 Broadway N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 ("Mortgagee"). The Mortgage is dated September 30, 2019, and recorded on October 4, 2019 in the Allegan County Register of Deeds, in Liber 4388, Page 157. As of January 16, 2025, the amount claimed to be due under the Mortgage is the sum of One Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine and 66/100 Dollars ($128,969.66), including interest at the rate per annum set forth in the Note, and attorney fees. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and Note and which are permitted under Michigan law. Under the power of sale contained in the Mortgage, and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that the Mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgaged premises at public sale to the highest bidder at the Allegan County Courthouse, which address is 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010, and which is the place of the holding of the Circuit Court for Allegan County, State of Michigan, on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The property subject to the Mortgage is situated in the City of Fennville, County of Allegan, State of Michigan and legally described as follows: The North ½ of Lots 13 and 14 in Hutchin's Addition, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 8, Allegan County Records. Parcel Address: 118 South Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408 Parcel Tax ID: 03-52-400-013-50 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period can be shortened in accordance with Michigan law. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Mortgagor and any other person liable on the Mortgage will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 16, 2025 MORTGAGEE: AAC CREDIT UNION 904 BROADWAY N.W. GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49504 Attorneys for Mortgagee: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C. By: Jeffrey D. Swenarton 750 Trade Centre Way, Suite 250 Portage, Michigan 49002

(01-16)(02-06)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Timothy James Ketchum to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, its successors and assigns , Mortgagee, dated April 7, 2023, and recorded on April 12, 2023, in Liber 4848, Page 506, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to loanDepot.com, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 28, 2024 and recorded February 29, 2024 in Liber 4923, Page 209, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Four and 24/100 ($173,954.24) including interest at the rate of 6.62500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Hopkins, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 29, Town 3 North, Range 12 West, Hopkins Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as beginning at a point on the West line of Section 29, being South 01 degree 00 minutes 12 seconds East 1312.39 feet from the West 1/4 corner of Section 29; Thence continuing South 01 degree 00 minutes 12 seconds East 219 feet; Thence North 89 degrees 50 minutes 48 seconds East 198.93 feet; Thence North 01 degree 00 minutes 12 seconds West 219 feet to the North line of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 29; Thence on said North line Section 89 degrees 50 minutes 48 seconds West 198.93 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 2657 22ND ST, HOPKINS, MI 49328 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 16, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for loanDepot.com, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00406-1

(01-16)(02-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ORDER REGARDING
ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO.24-69940-DC
Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
HOLLY M. HEFFNER
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.
MICHAEL J. BECKER P81132
ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, MCKOWN & KIEL, PC
314 Trowbridge Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-2136
v
Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
SETH A. STRONG
THE COURTFINDS:
1. Service of process upon the defendant, SETH A STRONG cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR2.105 and service of process may be made ina manner thatis reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
ITIS ORDERED:
[x] 2. Service of the [x] summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
b. Tacking or firmly affixing TO HIS WINDSHIELD ON HIS CAR
d. Other: publish in the county of his last known address per MCR 2.106(E)
For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.
January 14, 2025
Judge Matthew Antkoviak P-59449

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Summons
CASE NO.24-69940-DC
Judge Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone number
Holly M. Heffner
236 Robinson St.
Allegan, MI 49010
Plaintiff's attorney bar number, address, and telephone number
Michael I. Becker; Orton Tooman PC
314 Trowbridge St.
Allegan, Mi 49010
268-673-2136
v
Defendant's name, address, and telephone number
Seth A. Strong
236 Robinson St.
Allegan, Mi 49010
Domestic Relations Case
There are no pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.
SUMMONS
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:
1. You are being sued.
2. YOU HAVE 21 DAYS after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to file a written answer with the court and serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action with the court (28 days if you were served by mail or you were served outside of Michigan).
3. if you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
4. if you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter fo help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
issue date:12-30-2024
Expiration date: 3-30-2025
1-23 2-6

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Mortgage dated April 19, 2024, signed on April 26, 2024, and recorded on October 2, 2024, in Liber 4978 Page 342, Allegan County, Michigan,Register of Deeds, (the "Mortgage") Under the power of sale contained in of the Mortgage please take notice as follows: Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Allegan County Courthouse in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name of the Mortgagor: Dominic Russo Original Mortgagee: Phil Mol Date of Mortgage: April 19, 2024 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 2, 2024 Amount Claimed Due on Date of Notice: $106,176.71 Said premises are located in the Township of Dorr, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and more particularly described as: Lot(s) 11 Newman's Addition to Village of Dorr, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page(s) 18, Allegal County Records. Owner(s) of Record: Dominic Russo Property Address: 1836 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI 49504 Parcel ID No. 05-280-011-00 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8) unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, then, in that event, the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later, pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8), after which Dominic Russo and all persons claiming through or under them shall be forever barred from all equity of redemption. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, the owners, Dominic Russo, will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Phillip Mol for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 14, 2025 By: Phillip Mol, Mortgagee For any inquiries, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage set forth below: Melissa Francis, Esq. Hirzel Law, PLC 37085 Grand River Avenue, Suite 200 Farmington, Michigan 48335 Phone: (248) 478-1800 Hirzel Law, PLC File No. 18163

(01-23)(02-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Clyde Pruitt, a married man and Susan Pruitt, his wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank & Trust Company, N.A.
Date of Mortgage: August 30, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 11, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $184,393.91
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 6 of Ardmore Acres, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats on
page 61, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 676 10th St, Plainwell, MI 49080-1005
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1550854
(01-23)(02-13)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FORFEIT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY
BRADLEY BASTOW (formerly of 6990 114th Ave. in South Haven):
The state of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, herewith provides notice that it intends to dispose of certain personal property that was seized on May 12, 2017, in the course of investigating a complaint filed with the Bureau of Professional Licensing (Complaint No. 51-XX-146276). If you believe you have a claim to said property, please reply in writing to:
Lorne Carignan
Bureau of Professional Licensing
611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, Michigan 48909
1-23 3-27

FORECLOSURE NOTICE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTN HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. MORTGAGE SALE—Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Williams, a single man, of 2909 Lavita Lane, Dallas, Texas 75234 ("Mortgagor") to BankUnited, N.A., a national banking association, of 7815 NW 148 Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016 ("Mortgagee") dated September 25, 2020 and recorded with the Allegan County Register of Deeds, State of Michigan, on September 30, 2020 in Liber 4517, Page 629, Document #2020019993 (the "Mortgage"). The sum claimed to be due and owing on said Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is One Million Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and 10/100 Dollars ($1,325,770.10) including principal and interest. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9 a.m., local time, said Mortgage will be foreclosed at a sale at public auction to the highest bidder at that place where Circuit Court is held in Allegan County of the premises and land described in the Mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due on the Mortgage, together with interest, advances, legal costs, and charges and expenses, including the attorney fee, and also any sums which may be paid by the undersigned necessary to protect its interest. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Commencing 66 feet South 75 degrees 40 minutes East from Southeast corner of Fair and Charles Street, thence South 75 degres 40 minutes 66 feet, thence South 14 degrees 20 minutes West 165 feet, thence North 75 degrees 40 minutes West 66 feet, thence North 14 degrees 20 minutes East 165 feet to beginning, Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 12 West. Parcel Identification Number: 54-023-057-00 Commonly known as 218 Charles St, Otsego, MI 49078 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948 CL 600.3241 or 600.3241a, as the case may be, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Dated: January 14, 2025 BankUnited, N.A., a National Banking Association Ingrid A. Jensen (616) 608-1107 Attorney for Mortgagee Clark Hill PLC 200 Ottawa NW, Suite 500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(01-23)(02-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Amy Sayvongsa and Chris Velazquez, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: August 15, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 23, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $383,513.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 3 and the North 1/2 of Lot 2 of Atkins Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 8 of plats, Page 11, Allegan County Records
Common street address (if any): 2259 Atkins Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9464
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1551051
(01-23)(02-13)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Sarkis Sarkisian and Kathryn Anne Woods Sarkisian to American Advisors Group dated January 19, 2022 and recorded January 31, 2022 in Liber 4725 at Page 1, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $299,469.42. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: Lot(s) No. 86, 87, 88, and 89 of Felker's Lake Shore Subdivision, according to the recorded plat thereof. Being the same property conveyed to Sarkis Sarkisian and Kathryn Anne Wood Sarkisian, husband and wife from Kathryn Anne Woods Sarkisian by Warranty Deed dated March 22, 2021 and recorded March 23, 2021 among the Land Records of Allegan County, State of Michigan in Book 4594, Page 247 Instrument No. 2021006924. Tax Account #: 03-59-210-032-00; ALT APN: 59-210-032-00 Said property is commonly known as 3077 May Ave, Douglas, MI 49406. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 27, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 24-36501

(01-30)(02-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Daniel Martinez And Nyokia Martinez also known as Nyoka Martinez, Husband and Wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, its successors and assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2021-RP5
Date of Mortgage: June 24, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 5, 2005
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $38,209.38
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Starting at the Northeast corner of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, Section 4, Town 2, North, Range 15 West, as a Point of Beginning; thence South 135 feet; thence West 325 feet; thence North 135 feet; thence East 325 feet to the Point of Beginning, being in Section 4, Town 2 North, Range 15 West.
Common street address (if any): 2334 54th St, Fennville, MI 49408-9587
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 30, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1551601
(01-30)(02-20)

(Continued on Page B7)

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc. for Sale

For sale black oil sunflower seeds 50# bags $18 and shelled corn 50# bags $8. Phone 269-491-5769

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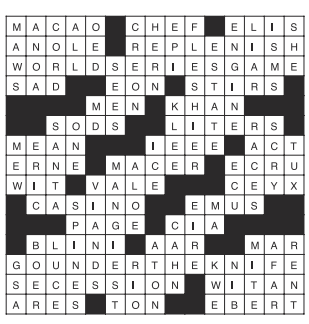

Misc.

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8	6	2	4	1	5	7	3	9
7	5	4	9	3	2	1	8	6
9	1	3	8	7	6	4	2	5
2	7	1	6	5	8	3	9	4
4	9	6	1	2	3	8	5	7
3	8	5	7	9	4	2	6	1
1	3	8	5	6	7	9	4	2
5	2	9	3	4	1	6	7	8
6	4	7	2	8	9	5	1	3

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Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
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Babylon Road, Allegan

Public Notices

Continued from, Page B6

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 06, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Georgia McNees, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Centex Home Equity Company, LLC Date of mortgage: April 28, 2006 Recorded on May 12, 2006, Liber 29856, on Page 270, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series MO 2006-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series MO 2006-HE6 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Twenty-Six and 26/100 Dollars ($115,026.26) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: LOT 24 OF BELDEN SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 18. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO THE USE OF SHORE DRIVE AND HILL DRIVE. Commonly known as 692 East Lake 16 Road, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series MO 2006-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series MO 2006-HE6 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1551806
(01-30)(02-20)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65440-DE and JUDGE Jolene A. Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Cherolynn Kay Schmitz Date of Birth:*April 7, 1947
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Cherolynn Kay Schmitz, died September 11, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to
Blake W. Hart , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1/30/25
William B. Millard
211 E. Water St., Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
(269) 343-2106
Blake W. Hart
2916 Pebble Valley Court
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590
(269) 673-8106

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph J. Laroy, a Married Man and Pricilla Laroy, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated September 27, 2004, and recorded in Liber 2738, Page 108, in Allegan County records, Michigan, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by a corrective Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 10, 2012 in Liber 3607, Page 376, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on February 24, 20214 in Liber 3816, Page 688, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of the FW Series I Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 12, 2020 in Liber 4461, Page 226, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Two and 80/100 dollars ($109,472.80). Said premises are situated in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 5, Oak View Farm, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. Commonly known as: 282 Zak Rd., Plainwell, MI 49080 Property Address: 282 Zak Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 Parcel No.: 17-660-005-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 6, 2025 For more information, please call: (440) 572-1511 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2410006 - Laroy, Joseph J., Pricilla Laroy
(02-06)(02-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Matthew Adams, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: May 13, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 20, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $163,463.33
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Dorr, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 251, Ranchero Estates No. 5 and the replat of Lots 130 and 131 of Ranchero Estates No. 4, being in the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of Section 22, Town 4 North, Range 12 West, Door Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 10, Page 96
Common street address (if any): 4083 Ann Ct, Dorr, MI 49323-9416
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1552249
(02-06)(02-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robert S. Morgan Jr., a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.
Date of Mortgage: July 12, 2016
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2016
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $64,503.32
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Cheshire, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land described as commencing at the Southwest corner of the East 70 acres of the West half of the Southeast quarter of Section 10, Town 1 North, Range 14 West, and running thence North 250 feet; thence East 250 feet; thence South 250 feet; thence West 250 feet to the place of beginning
Common street address (if any): 4077 108th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010-9315
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1552485
(02-06)(02-27)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Miriaixcel Cardona, a married woman, as her sole and separate property, whose address is 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Aspire Financial, Inc., D/B/A Aspire Lending, being a mortgage dated November 4, 2015, and recorded on November 13, 2015 in Liber 3980 Page 705, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated April 13, 2022 and recorded on April 13, 2022 in Liber 4750 Page 84, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY AND 60/100 DOLLARS ($70,890.60). Said premises are situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lots 64, 65 and 66 of Vio Ashdale's Addition to the Village of Pullman, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats on Page 12. Street Address: 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 6, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6248
(02-06)(02-27)

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Feb. 6, 1950

Checks keep grandma very busy: The habit of an Allegan County grandmother of writing checks without money in the bank to back them up has kept her in hot water for the better part of the past 12 months.

Mrs. Pearl Y. Keyser, formerly of RR 1, Shelbyville, is in the Kane County jail, Elgin, Ill., on a bad check charge. How she got there is a complicated story.

Mrs. Kyser is also out on a $300 cash bond and awaiting (it says here) trial in Allegan County circuit court on separate charges of forgery and offering and publishing a forged document, namely a check for $500.

She passed that check in Hopkins. The bank clerk there could not at first give an adequate description of her. But Mrs. Keyser was accommodating enough to return and try to pass another check. This time, the teller got an adequate description.

Currently, however, she has been missing since Dec. 1. Relatives finally heard from her last Monday. She was in jail in Elgin, Ill.

Feb. 6, 1975

Specialists make 'home calls': "The program is underway," Naomi Barber said. "Now, all we have to do is deal with the problems as they arise."

Ms. Barber, psychologist coordinator for the Allegan County Intermediate School District and chairperson for the Regional Diagnostic Clinic, was talking about the newest Diagnostic Clinic program—Infant Development.

The program, which began Nov. 1 with a search for handicapped infants, has been in operation for two months in the local district with the aim of developing the maximum potential of handicapped youngsters.

Initially designed by assistant superintendent for special education Michael Fitzpatrick, Development Center principal Lisa Wildfong and Ms. Barber, the program involves a home trainer working with parents in their homes weekly to help them gain a greater understanding of general child development, their child's particular disability and their adjustment to that disability, Ms. Barber stated.

A recent Michigan law state that training must be provided for all trainable physically and mentally handicapped persons form infancy to age 25, in full operation in districts of its size.

Feb. 10, 2000

Youth worship with A2J: The youth at Trowbridge United Methodist Church in Otsego have found a way—their own unique way—to worship.

They are involved in A2J, a group now in its ninth year, that gives them a chance to use their talents at acting, singing and even performing rock music during services at their won church and at other area churches.

A2J, which stands for Addicted 2 Jesus, began when Garry Bouwman, the youth paster at the church, and his wife noticed a trend among church-going students when they reach the teen years. Bouwman said this is true not just at his church, but at any church.

"My wife and I noticed that when teens reach a certain age, they tend to leave the church because churches in general aren't providing anything for them," Bouwman said.

So they decided to start the group, which Bouwman said at first was intended to be just a drama troupe. He said they had hoped to get at least a few students to attend the troupe's first meeting, but 22 came.

Since then, the group has grown to include about 45 members. They are involved not just in drama, but also in music, including the group's Christian rock band Grape Soda.

They also sponsor shows by other Christian rock groups.

Feb. 6, 2020

Flagpole donated to Hamilton veteran: A Christmas Day surprise will help remind a U.S. Army veteran in Hamilton of his days of service thanks to a donation by a Michigan company.

Flagpoles Etc. of Holly honored 33-year-old Christopher Krauss of Hamilton with free design and installation last month of a flagpole at his Heath Township home.

"I had wanted a flagpole for a long time in remembrance of my time in the military but never really had the extra money for it," Krauss said. "It's great. It looks really nice in our yard."

Flagpoles Etc. teamed with the nonprofit group Flags for Vets, whose mission is to honor veterans with a flagpole at no cost. More than 400 veterans in 23 states have been honored with flagpoles, according to the Flags for Vets website.

"Our veterans deserve to be honored and given respect for the sacrifices they made during their service," Brian Mann, owner of Flagpoles Etc., wrote in a press release.

Krauss was based on Fort Bliss, Texas, and deployed to Mosul, Iraq, for 16 months between 2006 and 2008. He received a Purple Heart and was medically retired and is 100 percent disabled according to the Veterans Administration.

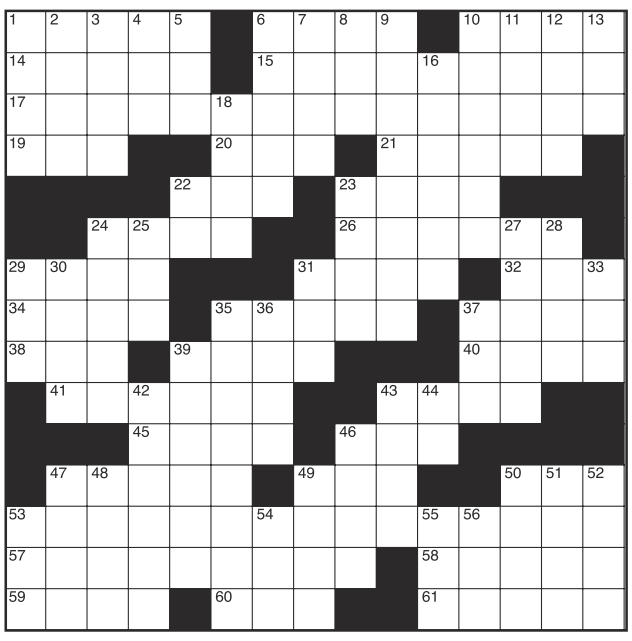
Krauss' wife Tanny saw a story about a veteran who walked around Lake Michigan and received a flagpole.

"Out of curiosity about the company, she went to their Facebook profile and stumbled across the program," Krauss said. "She arranged the whole thing for me as a surprise and stuck a tiny homemade flagpole in yard for me to find on Christmas Day."

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

"Rejected" is one of the skits performed by A2J. Participating are Tarin Martin (front), Leanne Porter and Ben Wales. (County News photo)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. 'The Las Vegas of the East'
6. Cook
10. Manning and Wallach are two
14. Chameleon
15. A way to fill up
17. What MLBers hope to play in
19. Unhappy
20. Indefinite period of time
21. Excites
22. Males
23. Mongol leader Genghis
24. Turfs
26. Soda comes in them
29. Not nice
31. Professional organization
32. Part of a play
34. Sea eagle
35. Emily Blunt's character in 'Sicario'
37. Beige
38. Mental sharpness
39. Valley
40. Alcyone's husband
41. A place to gamble
43. Flightless Australian birds
45. Call out somebody's name over a P.A. system
46. US spy group
47. Pancakes from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Disfigure
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Early English council
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Siskel and __, critics

CLUES DOWN
1. Mouths
2. Buffalo
3. You plug it in
4. Each
5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
6. King of Thebes
7. English name meaning 'mythical hunter'
8. Indicates near
9. More herbaceous
10. Gas-powered cars need one
11. Dishonest individual
12. Systems, doctrines, theories
13. The woman
16. The whole of one's holdings
18. Witnesses
22. Doctor
23. Paul __, Swiss painter
24. Kids look for him on December 24
25. Single
27. Competitions
28. Predict the future
29. Cage for trained hawks
30. Musician Clapton
31. Frozen water
33. Semiformal men's evening attire
35. Most worn
36. Common soap ingredient
37. Former EU monetary unit
39. Provisions
42. Book parts
43. Republic of Ireland
44. Partner to 'Pa'
46. Sammy __, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth __, American writer
49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
50. Minute arachnid
51. From a distance
52. Monthly apartment cost
53. Young women's association
54. Tourist destination
55. 'Woman' in Ojibwe language
56. Pointed end of a pen

■ see **Solution**, Page B6

Deaths

Jan. 15, 2025
BRIGITTE JEAN CHRISTIE, 69, Allegan Twp.
Jan. 17, 2025
WILLIAM E KALLEWARD SR, 54, Ganges Twp.
AVIS VALERIA GEREN, 95, HOlland
Jan. 18, 2025
WILLIAM ARNOLD MILLER, 39, Dorr Twp.
Jan. 20, 2025
RICHARD AUGUST MALMSTROM JR, 64, Allegan Twp.
DEBORAH MARY BEAMAN, 75, Manlius Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Jan. 22 and Jan. 28:

MICHAEL SEAN DUGAN, Allegan, and **JENNIFER CHRISTINE MOSLEY**, Allegan
KATHRYN PAULINE GARCIA, Zeeland, and **THOMAS LEE STILLE**, Zeeland
LINDSEY MARIE RUSH, Dorr, and **KYLE BRADLEY NORG**, Dorr
CARLOS LOPEZ DIAZ, Hopkins, and **BROOK ELAINE GOSS**, Hopkins
ANTHONY MAURO STRUNZ, Saugatuck, and **SAMANTHA JO WHITE**, Saugatuck
SHAYLA TATUM ALLEXIS ROY, Allegan, and **MAKAYLA LEIGH ARMIJO**, Allegan

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

8	6		4					9
			9					
	1	3	8			4		
		1						
	9				3		5	7
3	8							1
			5		7	9		
5					1	6		
	4	7	2					

(See Solution Page B6)

RELIGION SECTION

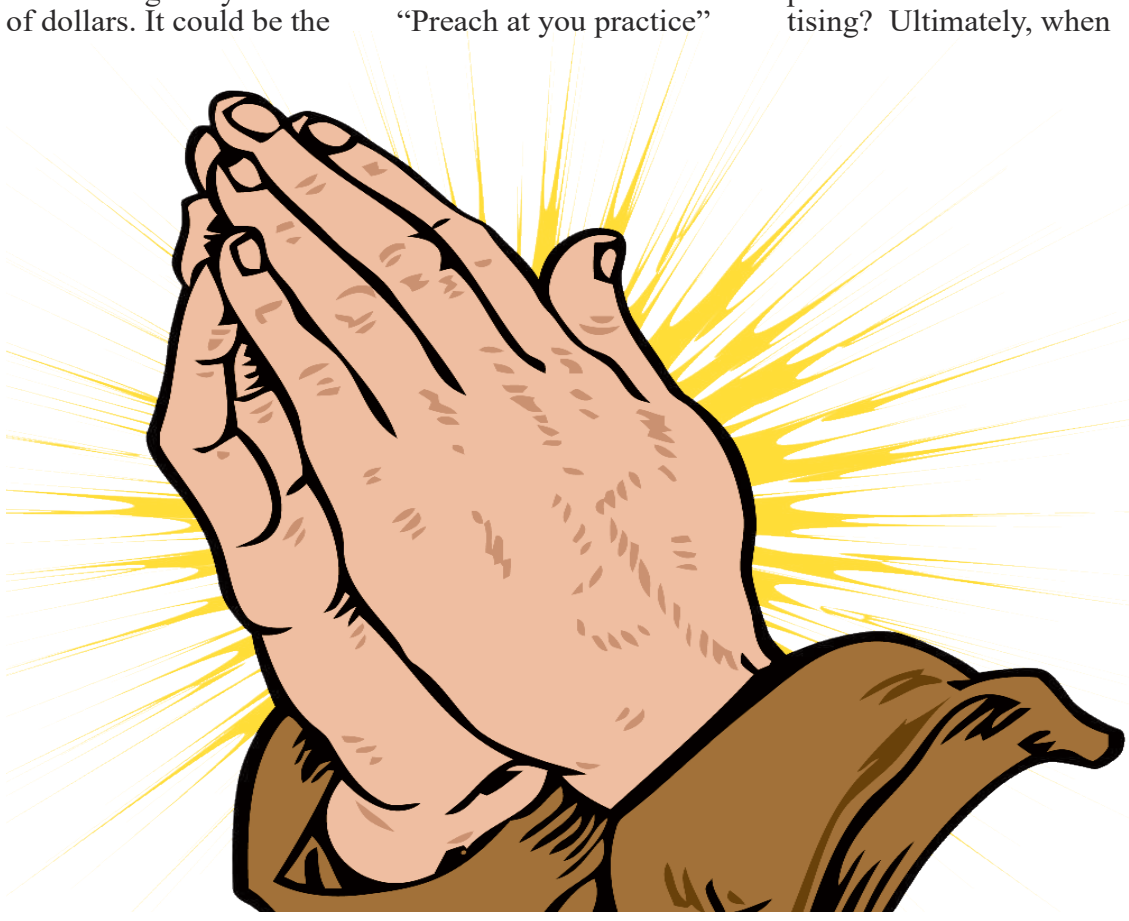
Many times have we heard or said, "Practice what you preach!" Usually it is a strong message that if we want to tell people we are a disciple of Jesus we need to act like one, not just talk about it. Of course, that can be very subjective. What you or I think might be acceptable Christian behavior, might be very different from the beliefs of another person.

Today, let's reverse this old statement to make it, "Preach what you practice." In short, tell anyone and everyone exactly what words you use, some of your core beliefs and what you do because they need to hear you say it. For some people, that is a spooky proposition.

For example, there have always been politicians who touted family values and virtues on the campaign trail and then were caught engaging in activities that were the polar opposite. Perhaps it might be the merchant who states their good service or low prices but never makes good on it. Or, we have heard clergy speak about their care and compassion for the poor, and the need to generously assist them, only to find out they have been salting away millions of dollars. It could be the champion of organic gardening and a strict vegan diet who was spotted in a restaurant enjoying a steak.

You get the general drift.

That is what makes "Preach at you practice" such an interesting concept. What if we really have to give an accounting of our words and actions to other people? What if we have to be scrupulous about our personal truth in advertising? Ultimately, when we stand before the throne of God, we will have to give an accounting for our words and actions. Jesus takes it a step further by including our thoughts.



It is not just the seemingly big stuff. It is everything. Children are sometimes very quick to notice when there is a disconnect between their parent's words and actions. Often, it is on something small. "How come you said we couldn't have candy before dinner, but you just ate a cookie?" The notice when the olds talk about obeying the speed limit but drive well over it.

One hallmark of practical practicing Christianity is a complete integration between thoughts, words, and deeds. We practice what we preach so that in turn we can honestly preach or tell others how we make God's kingdom very real.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 521-7657

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
Pastor Sheri Harris
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
Pastor Ruth Lowry 685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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